TRIGUN MAXIMUM

トライガン・マキシマム

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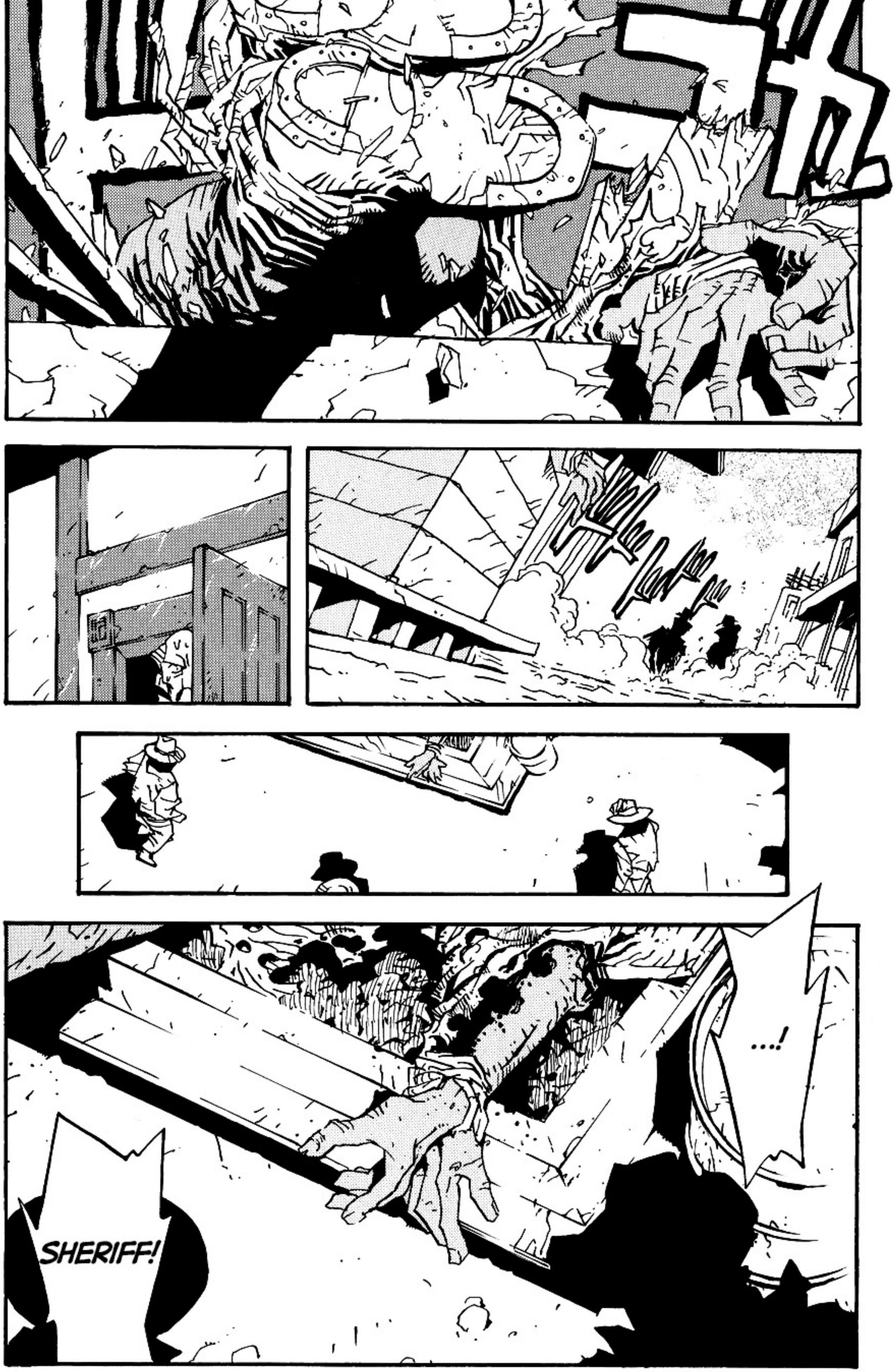
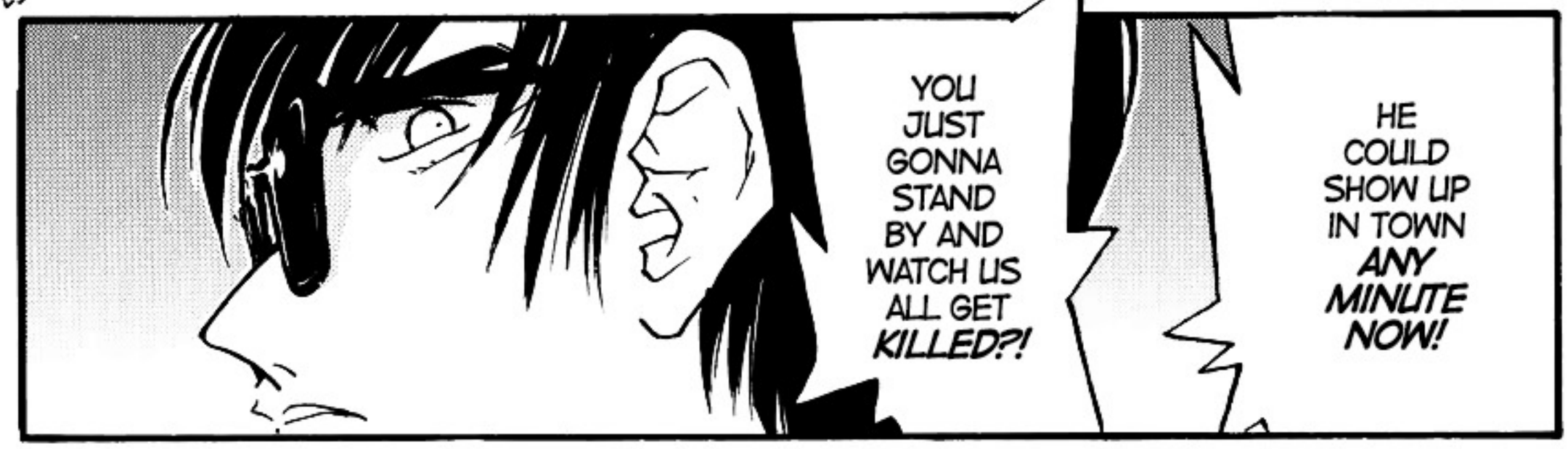
内藤泰弘
YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

LOOK UP!
LOOK TO THE FIRMAMENT ABOVE!
A BLOOD-RED EYE LOOKS DOWN UPON US.
AND REMEMBER! REMEMBER HIS NAME.
REMEMBER HIS LEGEND.
A TALE THAT MUST BE TOLD UNTIL THE END OF TIME.
THE LAST TRACE OF HIM THAT WILL LIVE ON INTO THE FUTURE.

#01. HERO REBORN


...!
SHERIFF!

HEY!
JUST GET ME OUTTA TOWN!
LET ME ON! I HAVE MONEY!


YOU JUST GONNA STAND BY AND WATCH US ALL GET KILLED?!
HE COULD SHOW UP IN TOWN ANY MINUTE NOW!

CREAK

C'MON! JUST TELL US HOW MUCH!
YOU NEED TO BUY A TICKET!
...
...

...
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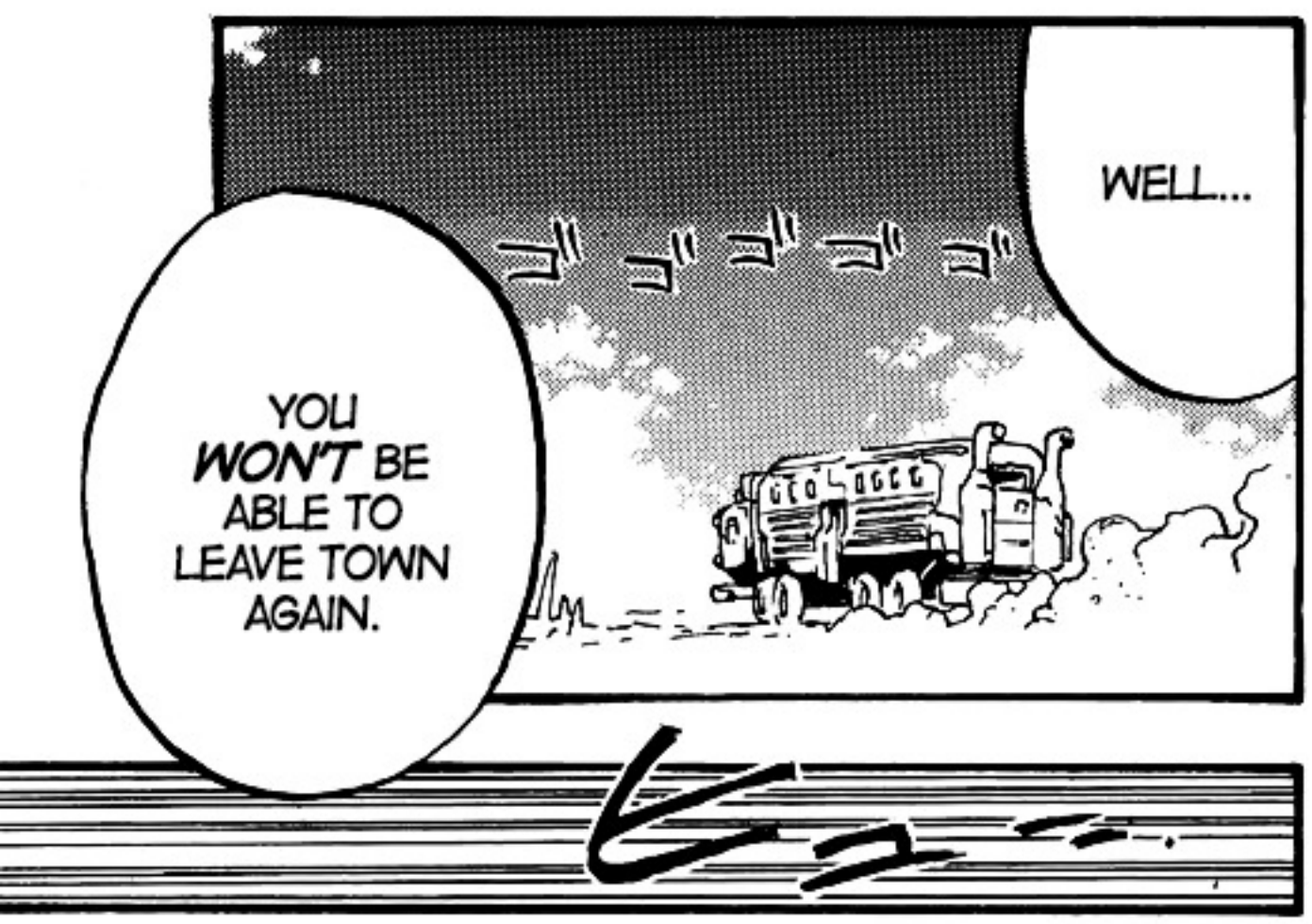
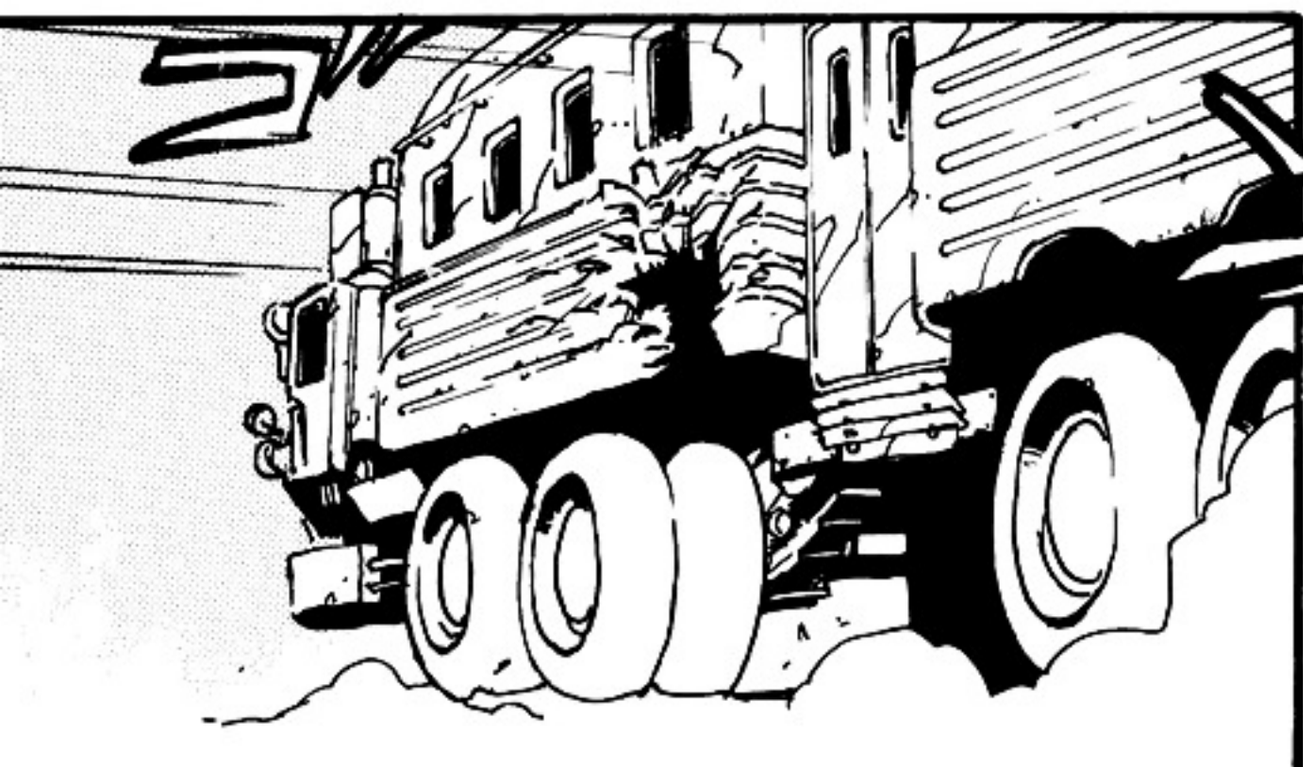
...
...

HEY, BARKEEP, CAN I GET SOME GRUB?
LET US ON!
DAMN, THIS TOWN'S HIGH-STRUNG.


WELL...
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE TOWN AGAIN.

YEAH.
THEN YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY.
?

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE.
YOU JUST CAME OFF THE BUS, RIGHT?



...
...
HUH?!
THE LEGEND-ARY GUNMAN, HUH?
SUSPICIOUS... HE THE REAL DEAL?
HMPH!
YOU'RE THINKING THE SAME THING...
RIGHT NOW, THE LEGENDARY GUNMAN VASH THE STAMPEDE AND HIS FOLLOWERS HAVE THE TOWN SURROUNDED.
THE SHERIFF WENT TO NEGOTIATE BUT CAME BACK TWICE HIS WEIGHT IN LEAD.
ONCE YOU'RE HERE, IT'S LIKE A SPIDER'S WEB, YOU CAN'T GET OUT.
VASH THE STAMPEDE...
EVERYONE JUMPS AT THE MERE MENTION OF THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SCOUNDREL.

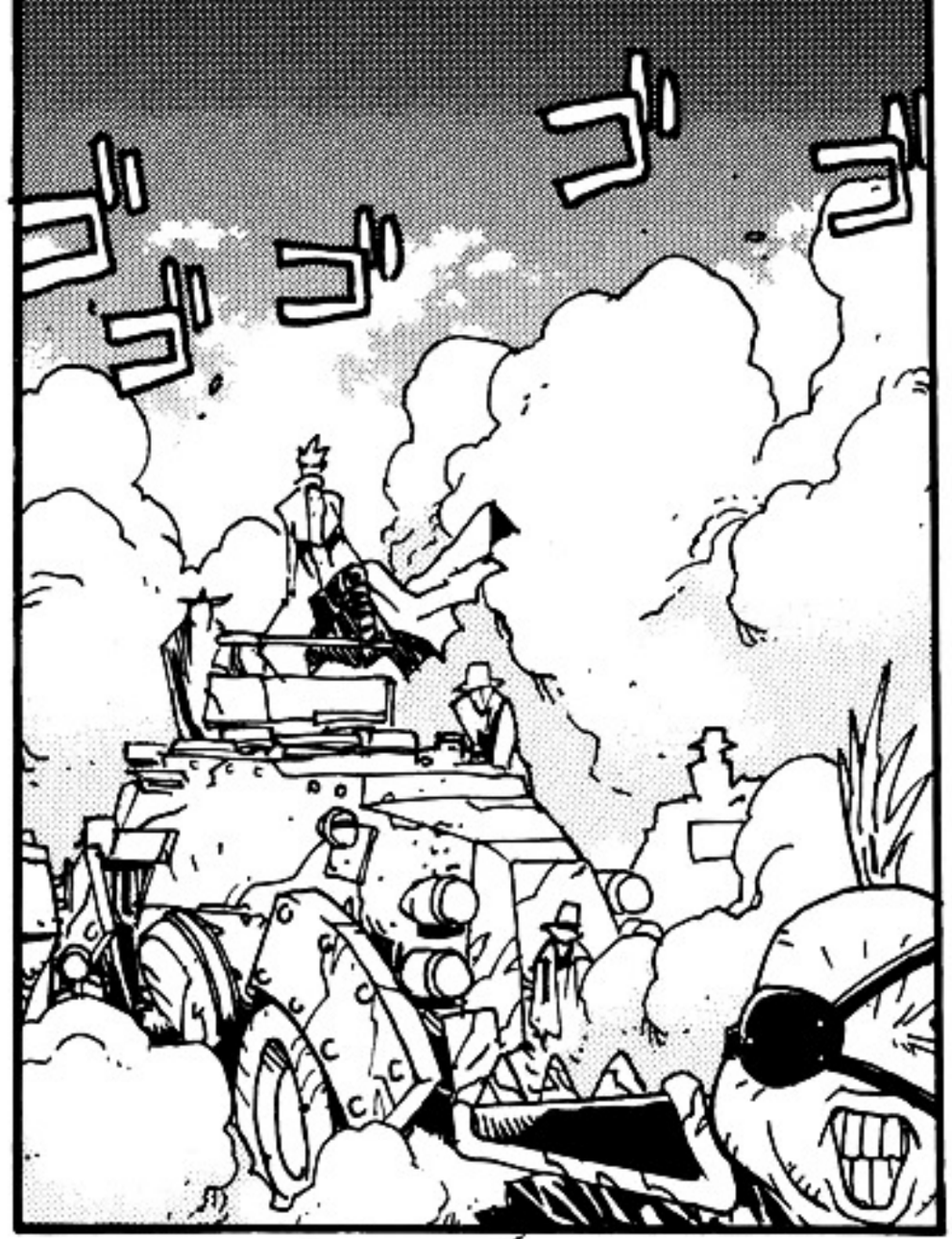
HE'S A LOCALIZED DISASTER WITH OVER *TWO HUNDRED* INCIDENTS TOTALING OVER $$70 TRILLION IN DAMAGES.
THEY OFFERED A BOUNTY OF $$60 BILLION FOR HIS HEAD BEFORE HE WAS DECLARED HUMANITY'S FIRST *ACT OF GOD.*
THE DEMON THAT REDUCED TWO OF THE SEVEN CITIES TO ASH.
THEY SAY *HE* BLEW THAT BIG OL' *HOLE* IN THE FIFTH MOON.
BUT WHO COULD *REALLY* BELIEVE THAT?
THEN AFTER THE FIFTH MOON INCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO, HE DISAPPEARED FROM THE FRONTIER.

WELL, FACT OR FICTION ASIDE...
THAT'S RIGHT.
BY THE WAY... WHAT'S WITH THE CROSS?
...YER SAYIN' HE'S THREAT-ENIN' THE TOWN?
THE NAME'S NICHOLAS D. WOLFWOOD.
THAT'S GOOD.
I'M A PRIEST TRAVELLIN' THE LAND DOIN' THE LORD'S WORK.
OUR OLD MINISTER WAS JUST KILLED.
MIND HELPING US WITH A FEW FUNERALS? NOTHING FANCY.

HEY, BARKEEP, I NEED THE USUAL!
LET GO OF ME, ERIKS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN JUST ME?!
OH, IT'S JUST LINA.
HEY! WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOU?!
SORRY, SIR, BUT I'M IN A HURRY.
IS YOUR GRANNY OKAY?
WHAT'S GOING ON, LINA?
DON'T SAY THAT!
ARGH!
SMACK
HE JUST TOUCHED YOUR BUTT...
WAIT? WHAT?!
THAT PEDOPHILE DESERVED A BEAT-DOWN! HE HAD IT COMING!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU OVERDID IT A LITTLE, LINA?

?!
I THOUGHT IF I DUCKED IN HERE THEY WOULDN'T FIND ME.
WELL, Y'KNOW.
...?!
THEN YOU MEAN...

YA JUST HAD TO GO AND RUIN MY DINNER.
DAMN...
CHK
WHERE IS THE GIRL...
...WHO LEFT HER FOOTPRINT ON MY *HANDSOME* FACE?!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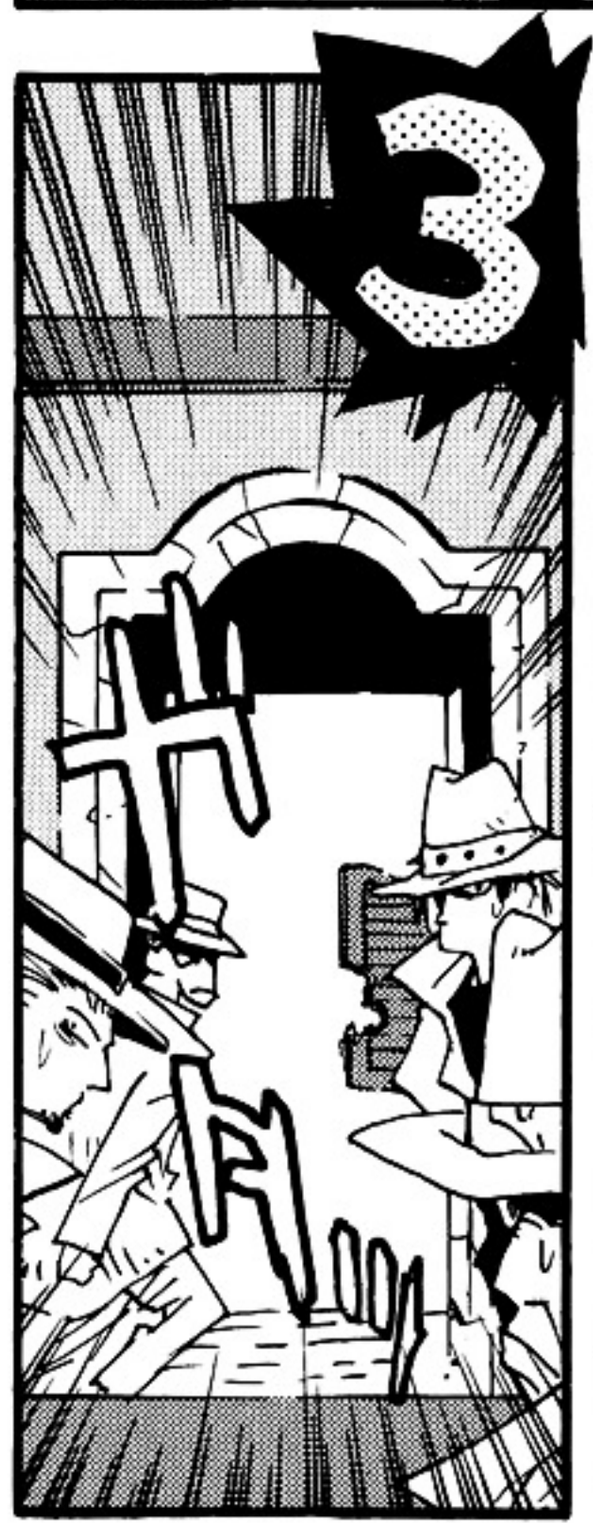
HEY... THAT MAN...
IS THAT...

THE BRAT'S GOT SOME TALENT.
I SEE SHE GOT 'IM GOOD.
A FOOTPRINT WAS LESS THAN YOU DESERVED, YOU CREEP!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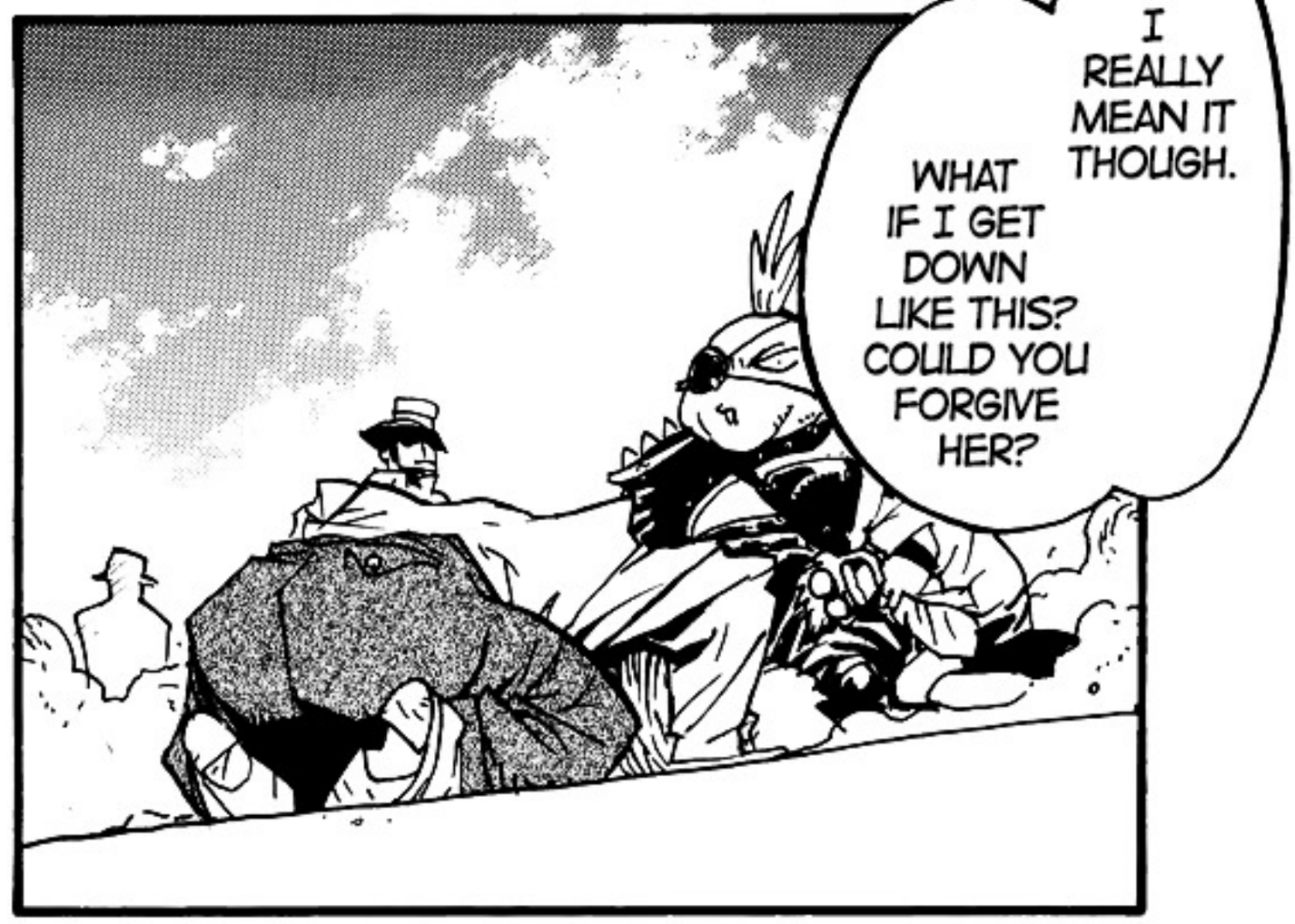
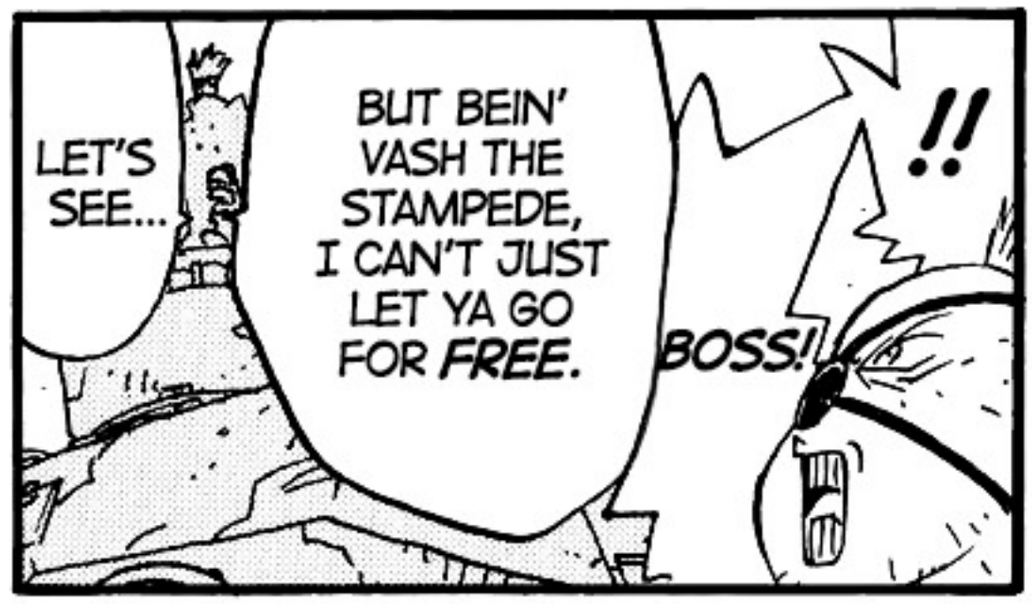
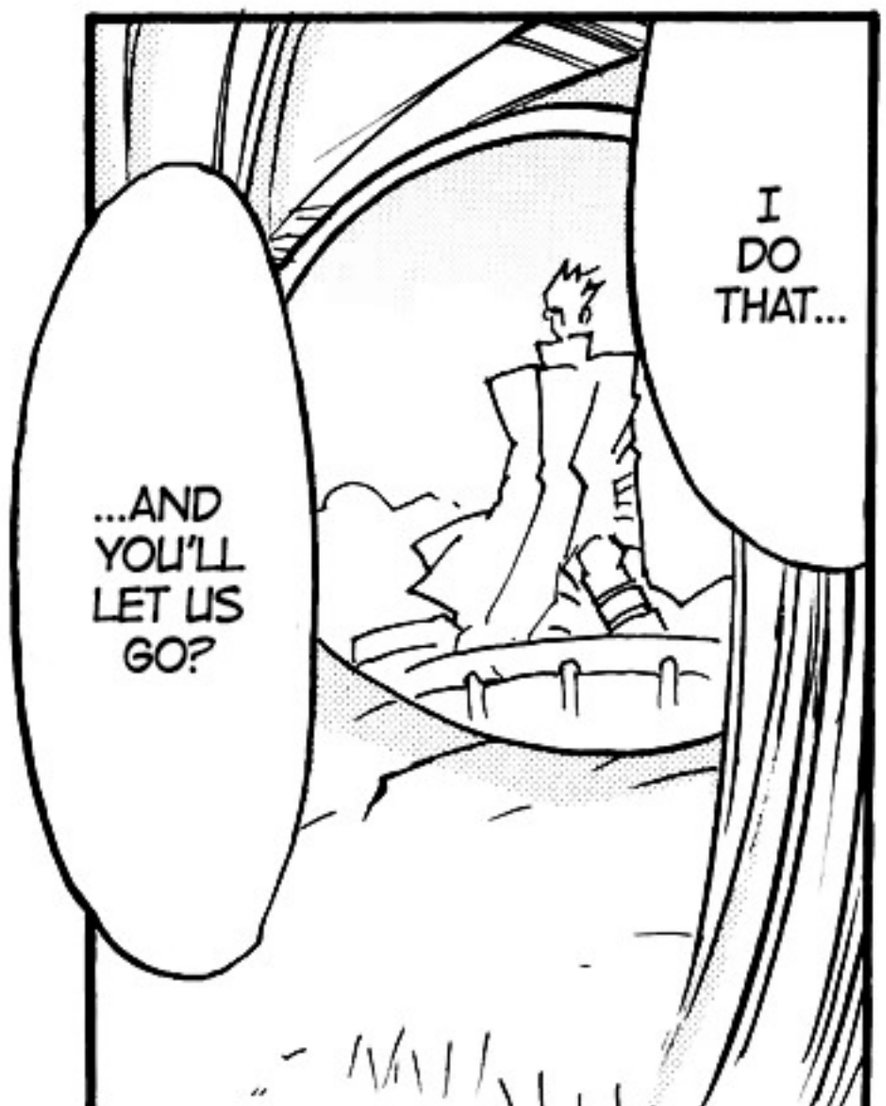
WAIT A MINUTE, ERIKS!
WAIT!
WA-
I WANT THE BRAT SENT OUT.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU PEOPLE WANNA KILL, HER.
SORRY, CAN'T DO THAT.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR THE MIS-UNDERSTANDING. CAN'T WE TALK THIS OUT?
SHE'S ONLY TWELVE. MAYBE YOU COULD OVERLOOK IT-

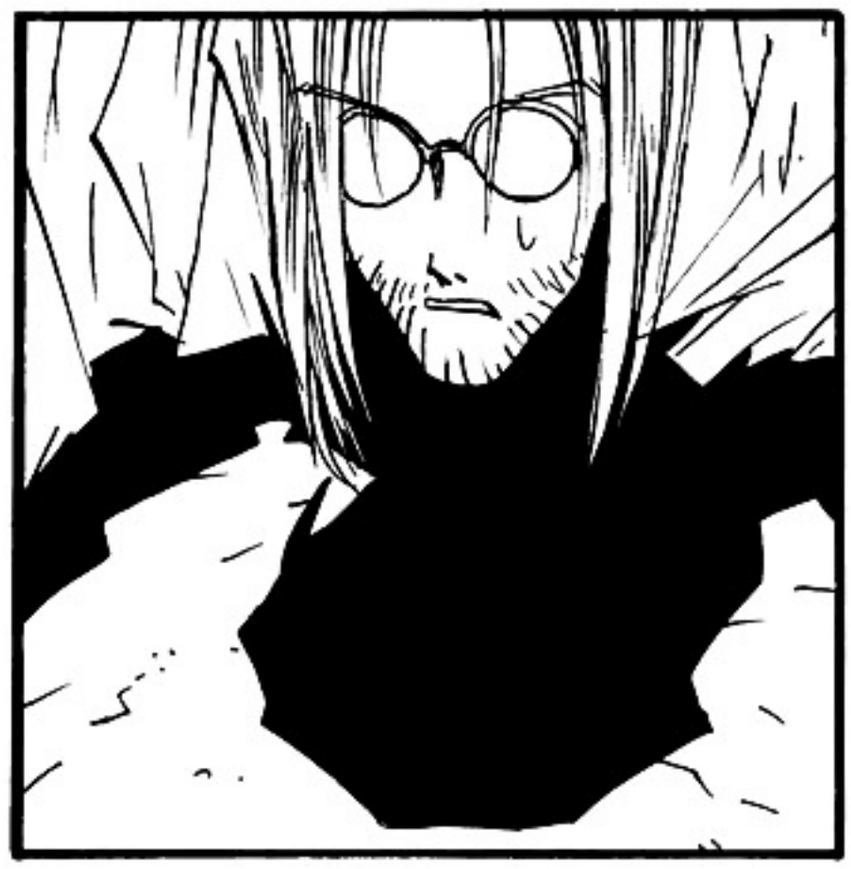
...
...
I'LL LET HER OFF THE HOOK *THIS* TIME.

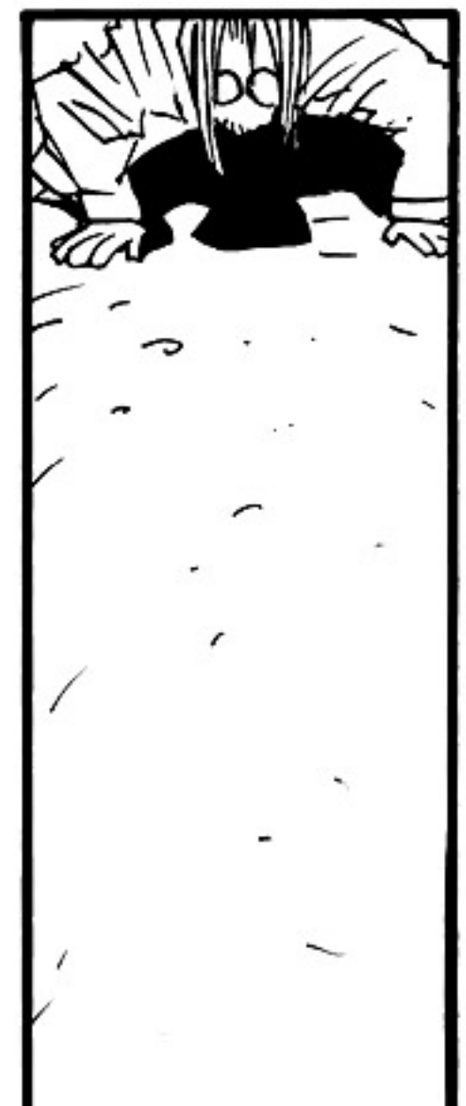

I REALLY MEAN IT THOUGH.
WHAT IF I GET DOWN LIKE THIS? COULD YOU FORGIVE HER?

...AND ACT LIKE A DOG.
STRIP NAKED...


LET'S SEE...
BUT BEIN' VASH THE STAMPEDE, I CAN'T JUST LET YA GO FOR *FREE*.
!!
BOSS!

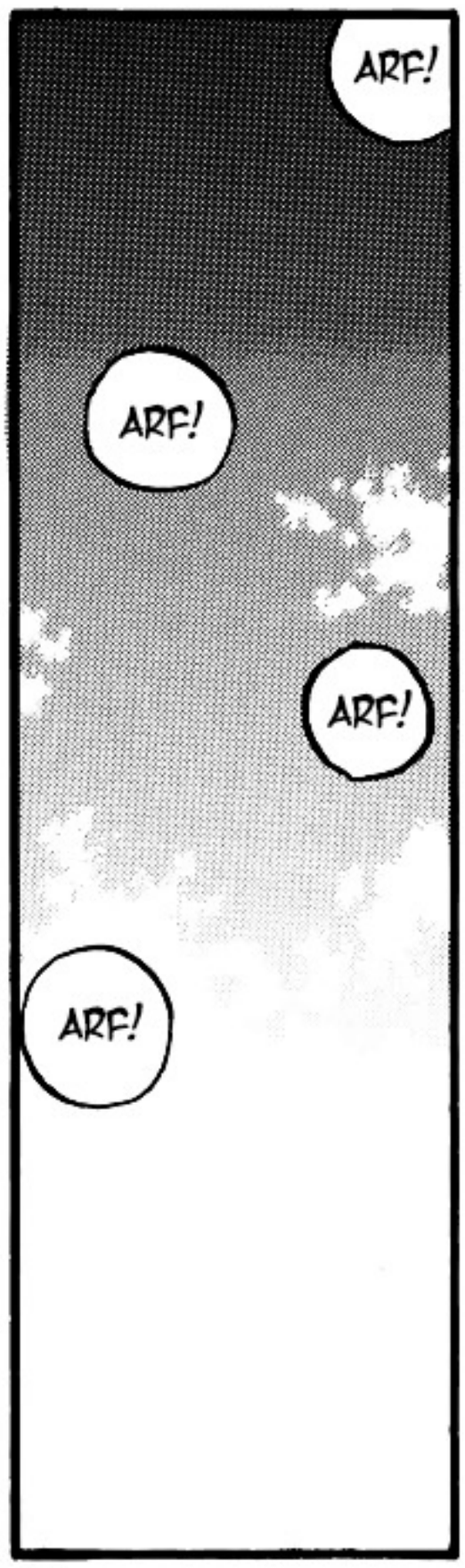

I DO THAT...
...AND YOU'LL LET US GO?

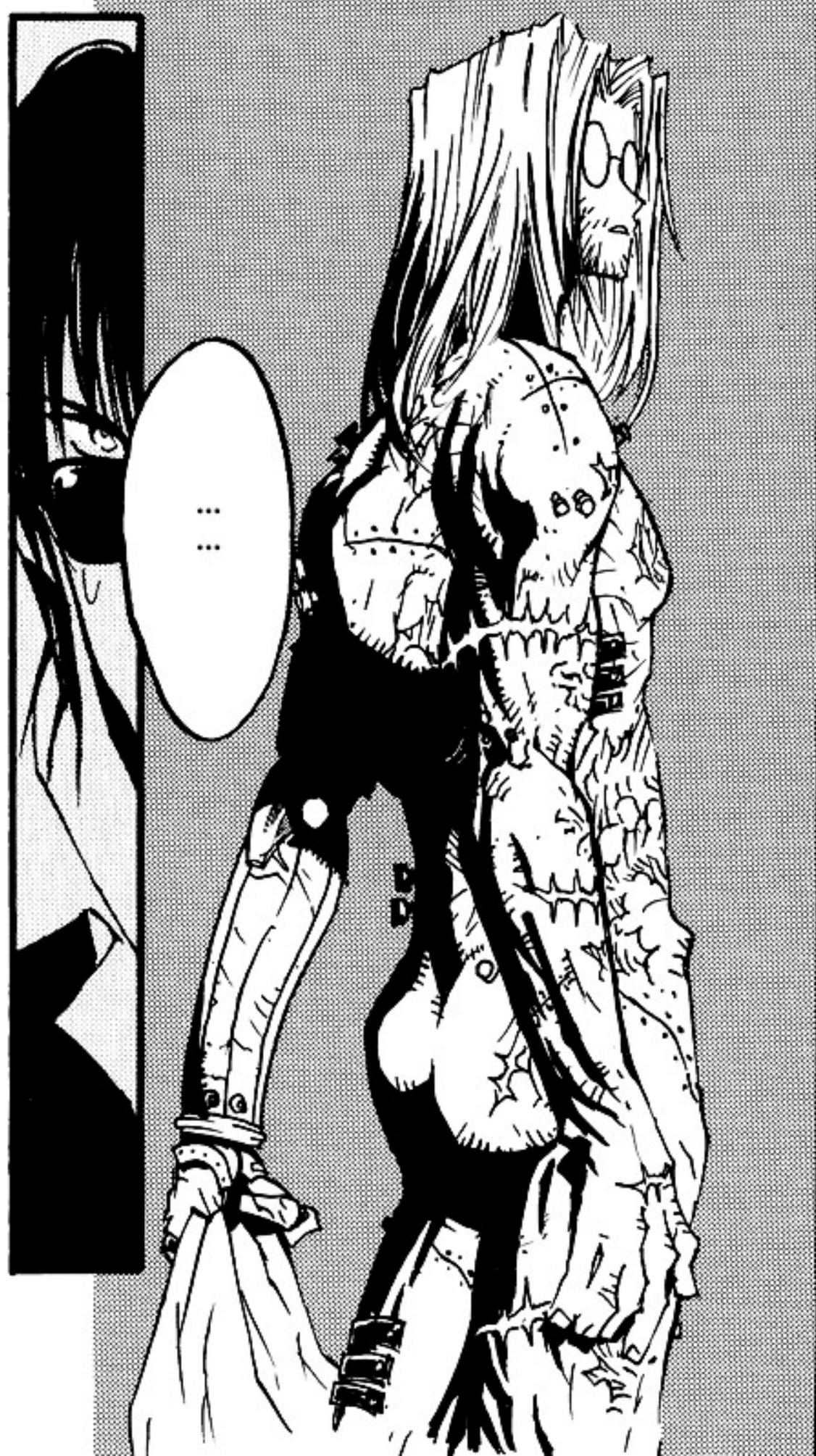




LINA.
COVER YOUR EYES.

STOP IT!


ARF!
ARF!
ARF!
ARF!


...
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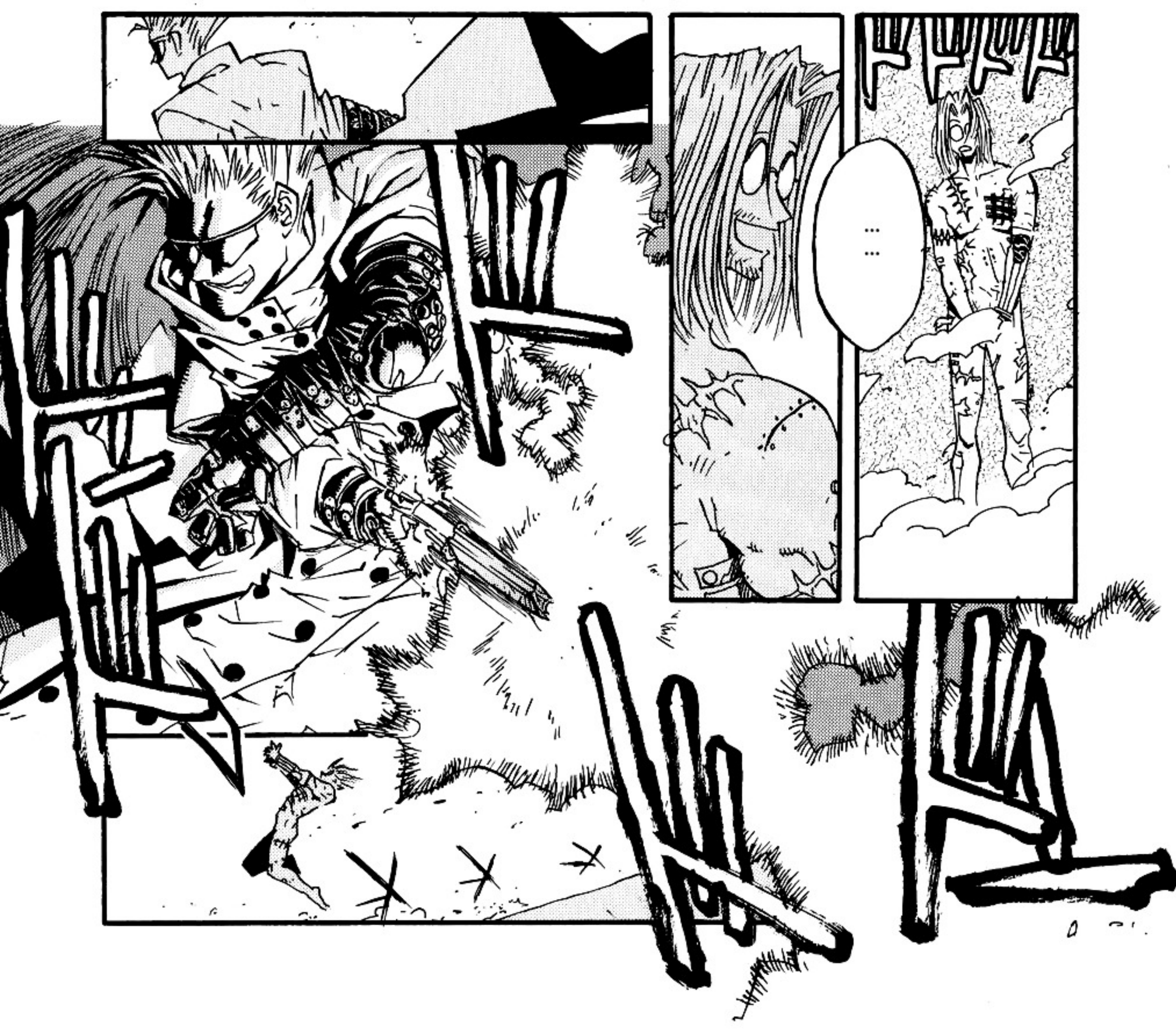
...
...
WHAT THE-?

...
...
HIS BODY...

HE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD AT IT.
NOW WHADDA WE DO, BOSS?
PANT PANT PANT
ARF!
ARF!

SHIT!
LET'S GO.
HEH.


...
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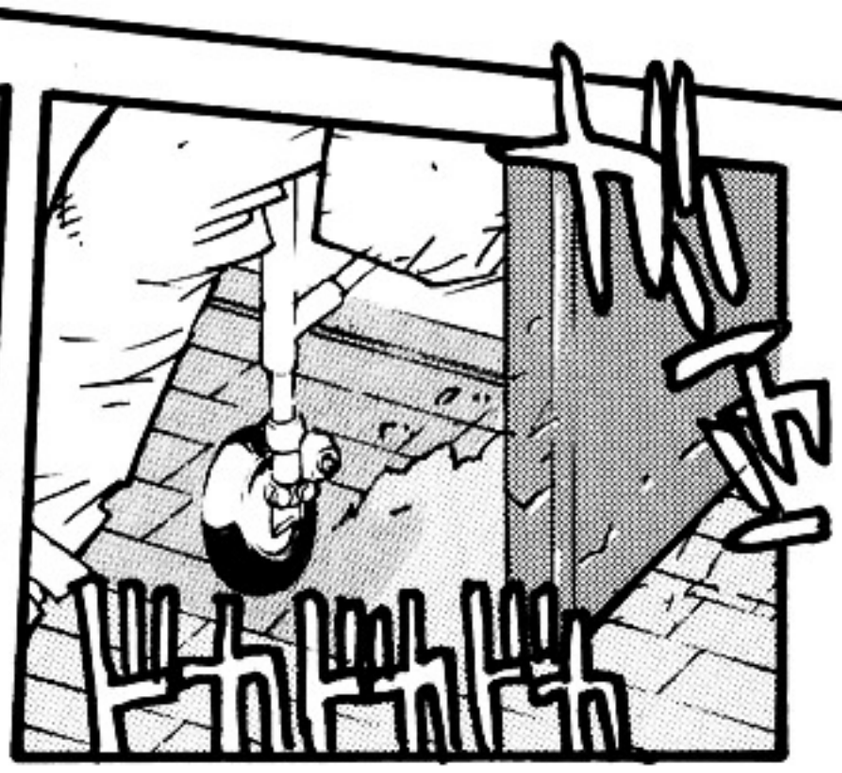
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
ERIKS!
HA HA HA HA HA
AAH!

AAAAAAAH!

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE BULLETS WENT ALL THE WAY THROUGH. PLEASE, DOCTOR, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

OH, IT'S ERIKS AGAIN, IS IT?



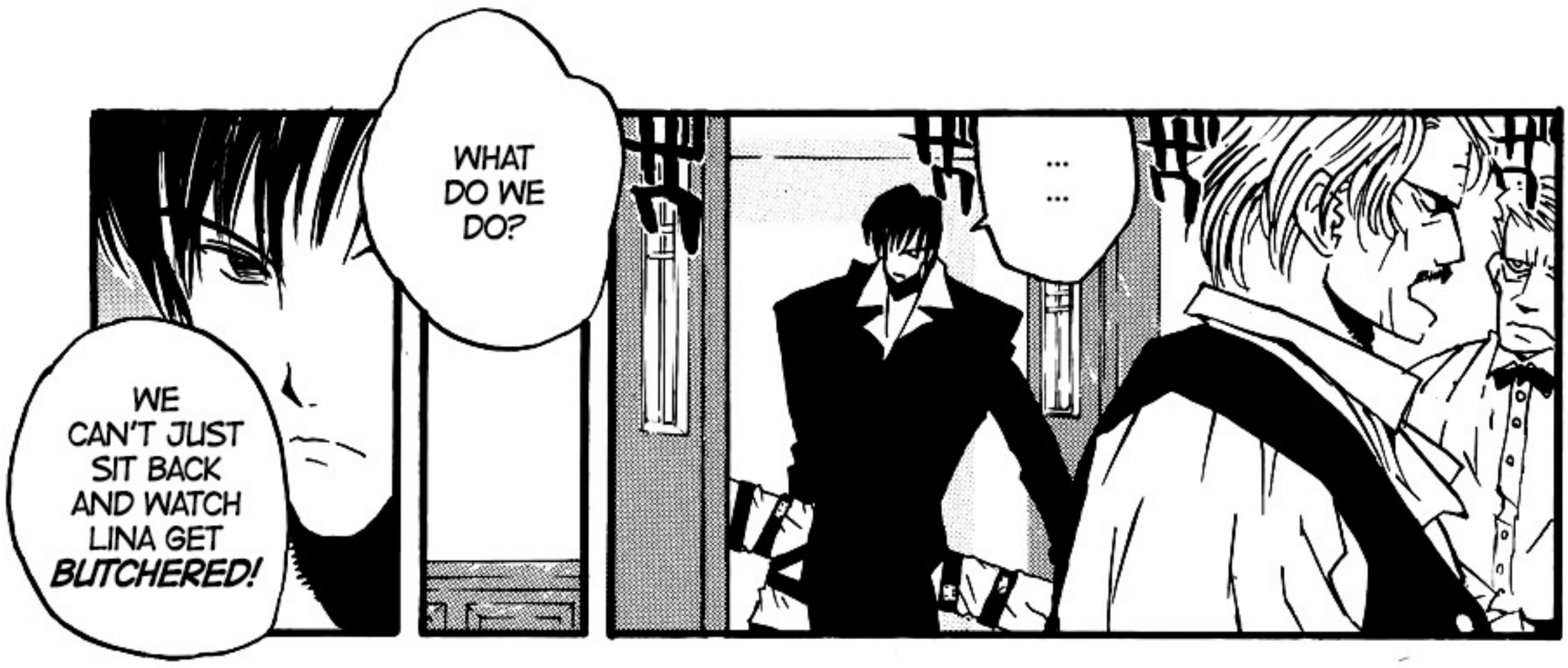
STRIPPING DOWN... ACTING LIKE A DOG... *NO WAY!*

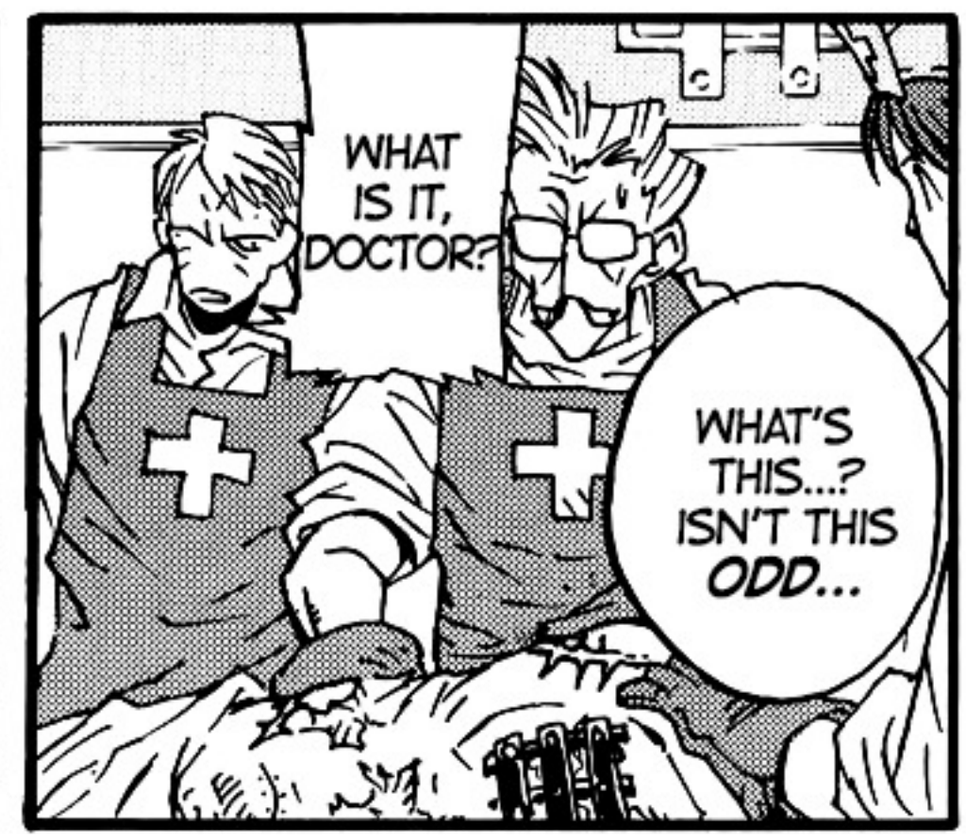
WHICH WOULD YOU TAKE?

GIVEN A CHOICE BETWEEN YOUR LIFE OR YOUR PRIDE...

GUH- GUH- GUH- GUH-

YA BASTARDS ESCAPED WITH YER *LIVES* THANKS TO *'IM!*


WHAT DO WE DO?
WE CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH LINA GET BUTCHERED!
...
...


WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR?
WHAT'S THIS...? ISN'T THIS ODD...

OH?
?
?

ERIKS!

THE BULLETS ARE BEING PUSHED OUT OF HIS BODY.
CLINK
WHAT?!

WELL NOW, IF IT ISN'T SHERYL.
AH.

I'M SORRY, BUT LINA...
GRANNY SHERYL.

HMPH.
WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.
WE'LL KEEP HIM HERE OVER-NIGHT.
HE'S GOT THE DEVIL'S OWN *LUCK*.
ERIKS' GOING TO BE OKAY.
DOCTOR ...!
WHAT MAKES HIM THINK HE HAS THE *RIGHT* TO *BEREAVE* AN OLD WOMAN OF HER *ONLY FAMILY?!*
HUH?!
DAMNIT!
I DON'T *CARE* IF HE'S THE LEGENDARY GUNMAN!
THANK GOOD-NESS...
HUH, GRANNY?
...
...
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HAH! LOOK AT YOU! BUNCH'A *COWARDS,* YOU ARE!
YOU'RE TEN YEARS TOO YOUNG TO BOSS ME 'ROUND!
YOU'RE GONNA GET YOURSELF *KILLED,* YOU OLD BAT!
ARE YOU *YOUNG MEN* GOIN' TO GO INSTEAD OF ME?!
CUT IT OUT! YOU'RE FAR TOO *OLD!*
SHUT UP! LET GO OF ME!
...!
AH! *HEY!* GRANNY!
THAT SON OF A BITCH!
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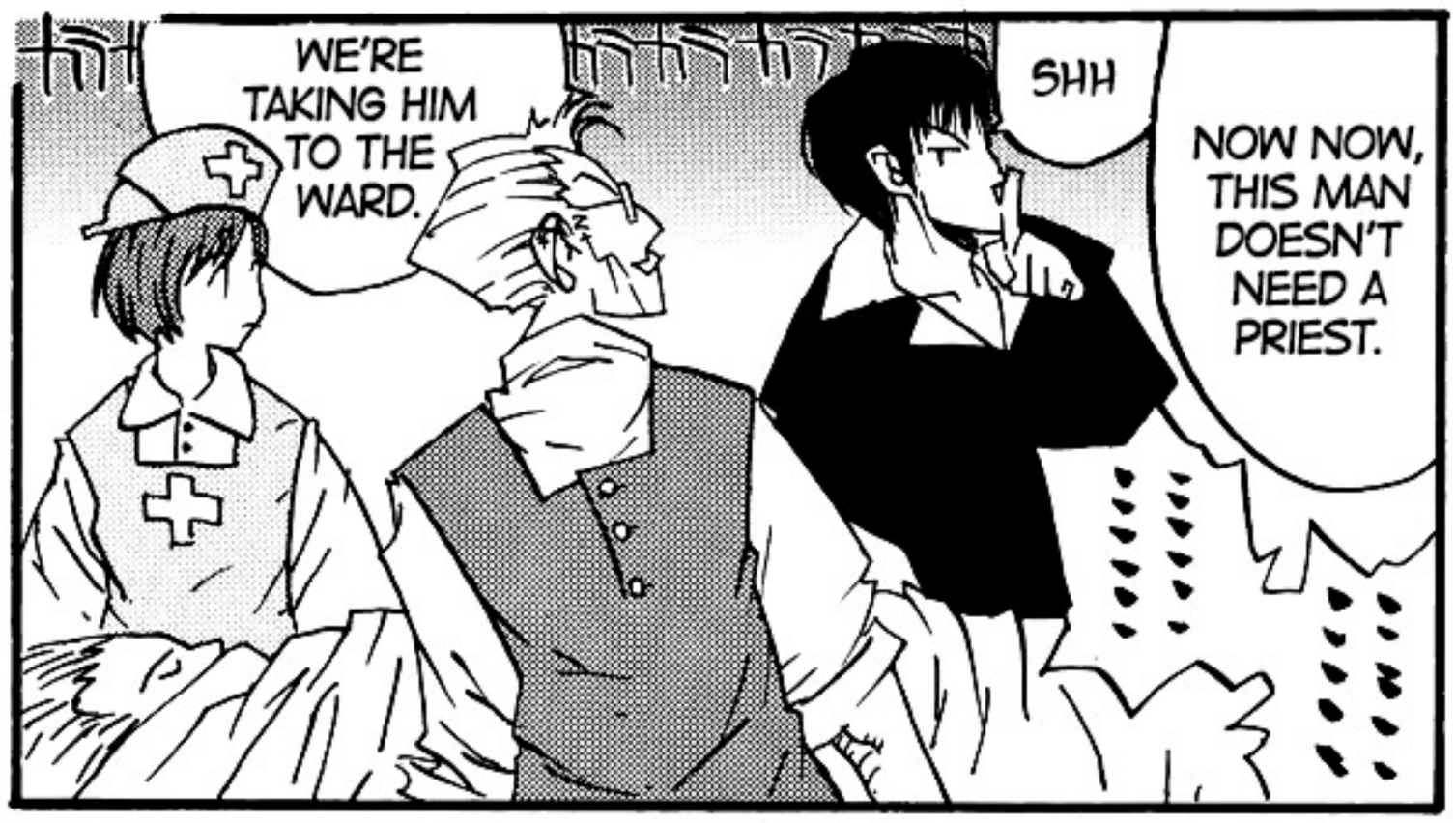
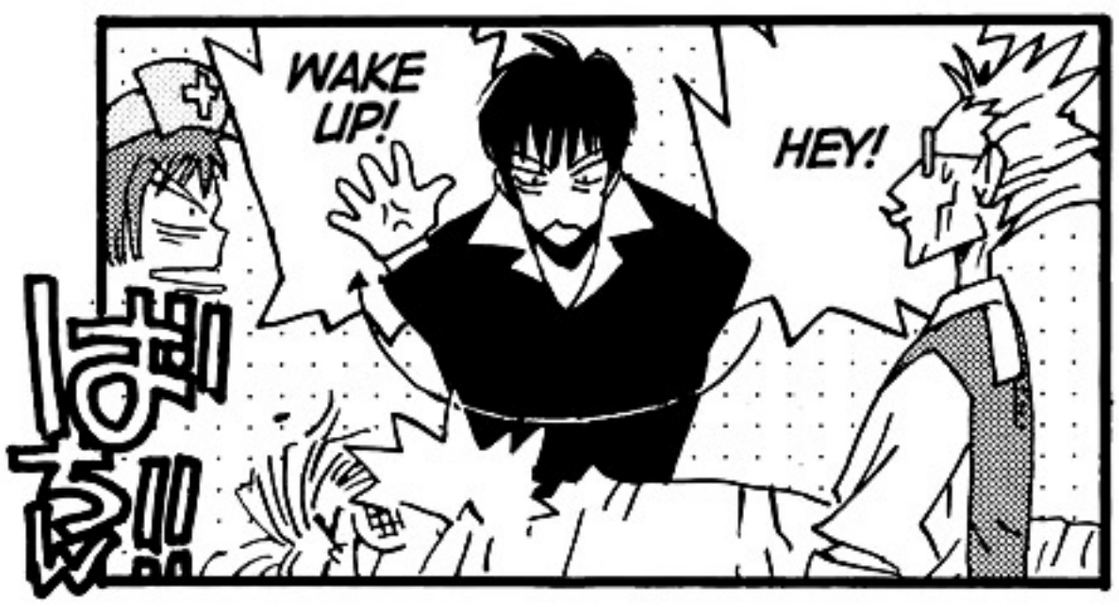
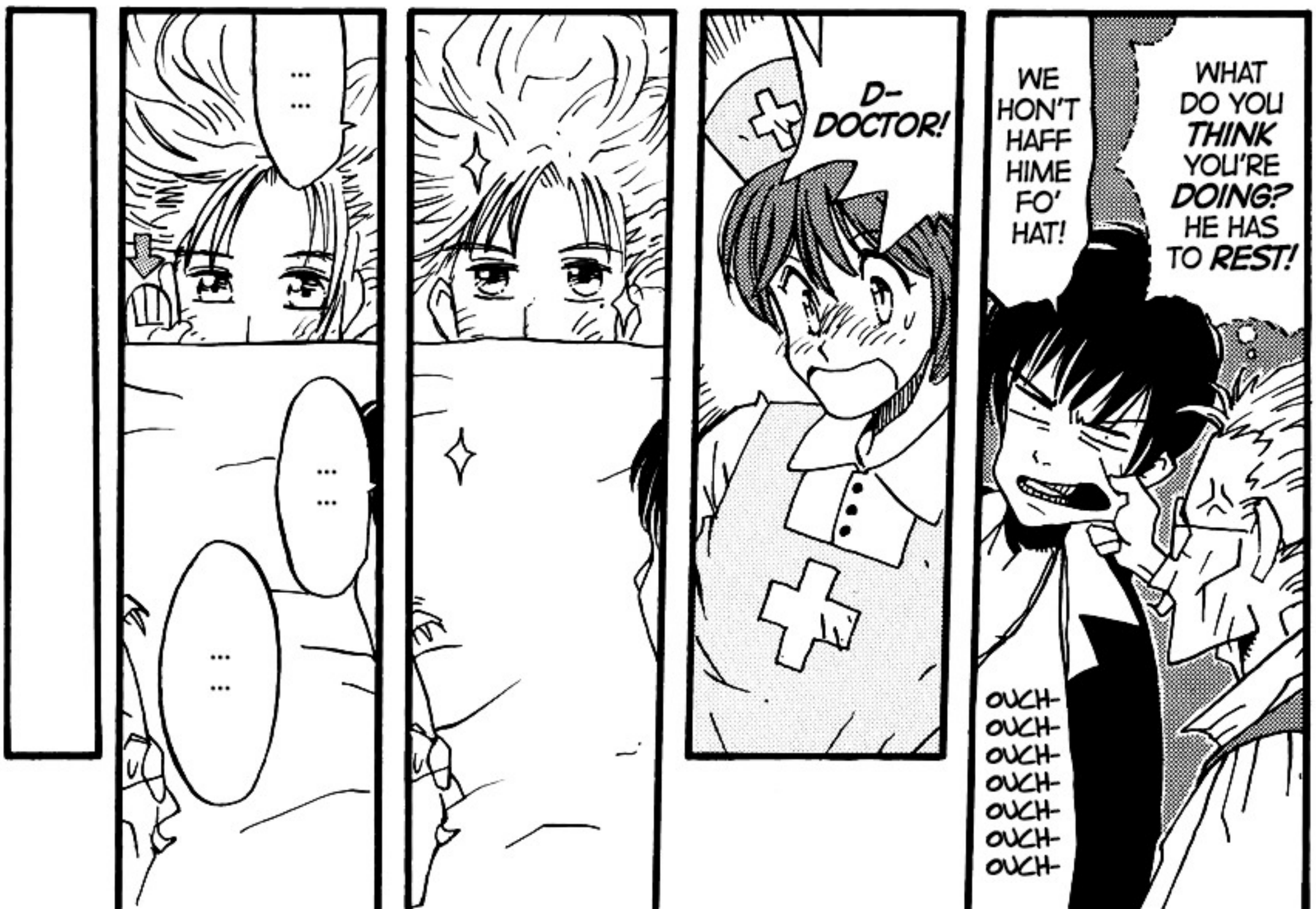

WE'RE TAKING HIM TO THE WARD.
SHH
NOW NOW, THIS MAN DOESN'T NEED A PRIEST.


WAKE UP!
HEY!

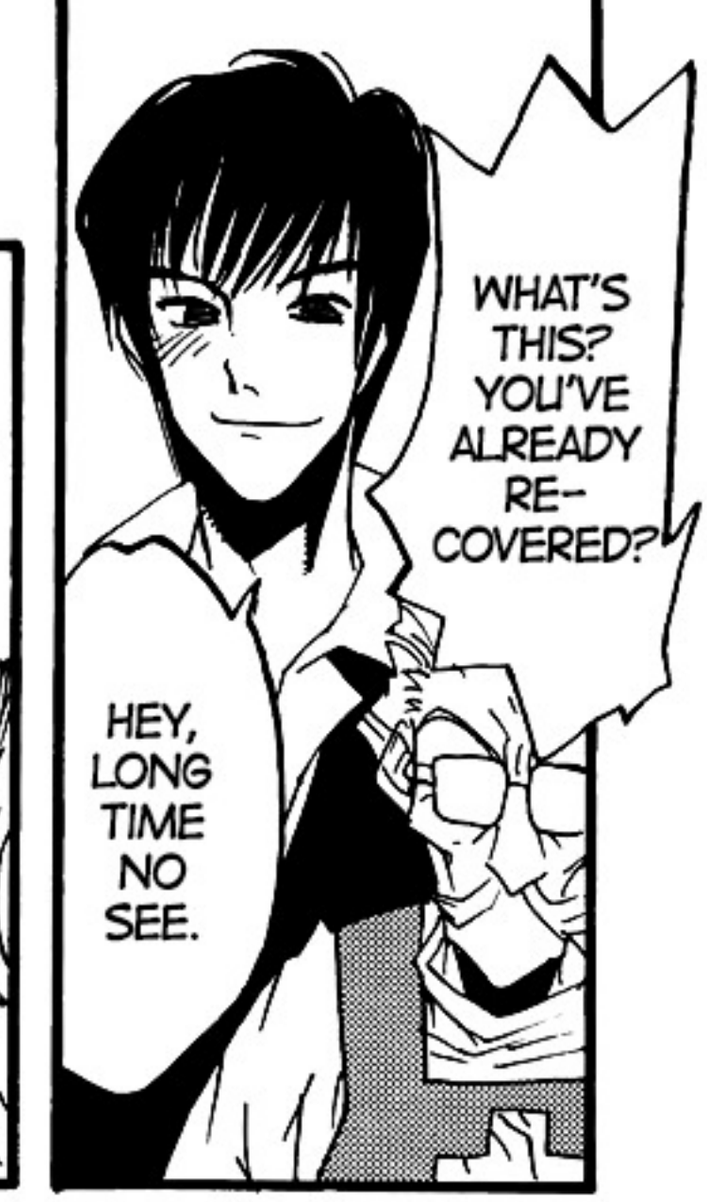
HMM...
...
...

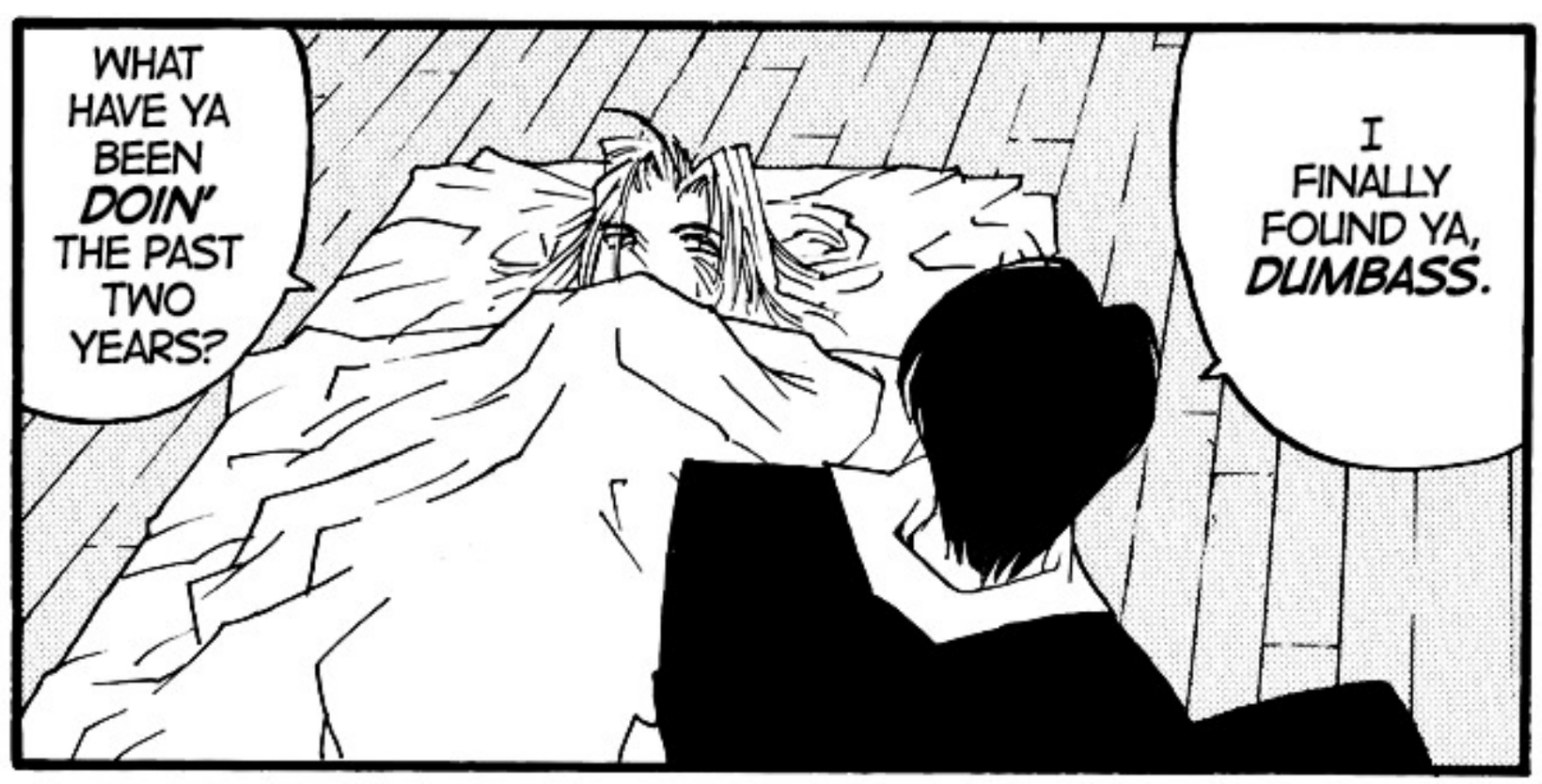

...
...
...
...
D-DOCTOR!
WE HON'T HAFF HIME FO' HAT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? HE HAS TO REST!
OUCH-
OUCH-
OUCH-
OUCH-
OUCH-
OUCH-
OUCH-

DON'T PUSH HIM TOO HARD!

AH.
CERTAINLY.

I'M SORRY, DOCTOR, COULD YOU LEAVE US FOR A BIT?


WHAT'S THIS? YOU'VE ALREADY RE-COVERED?
HEY, LONG TIME NO SEE.

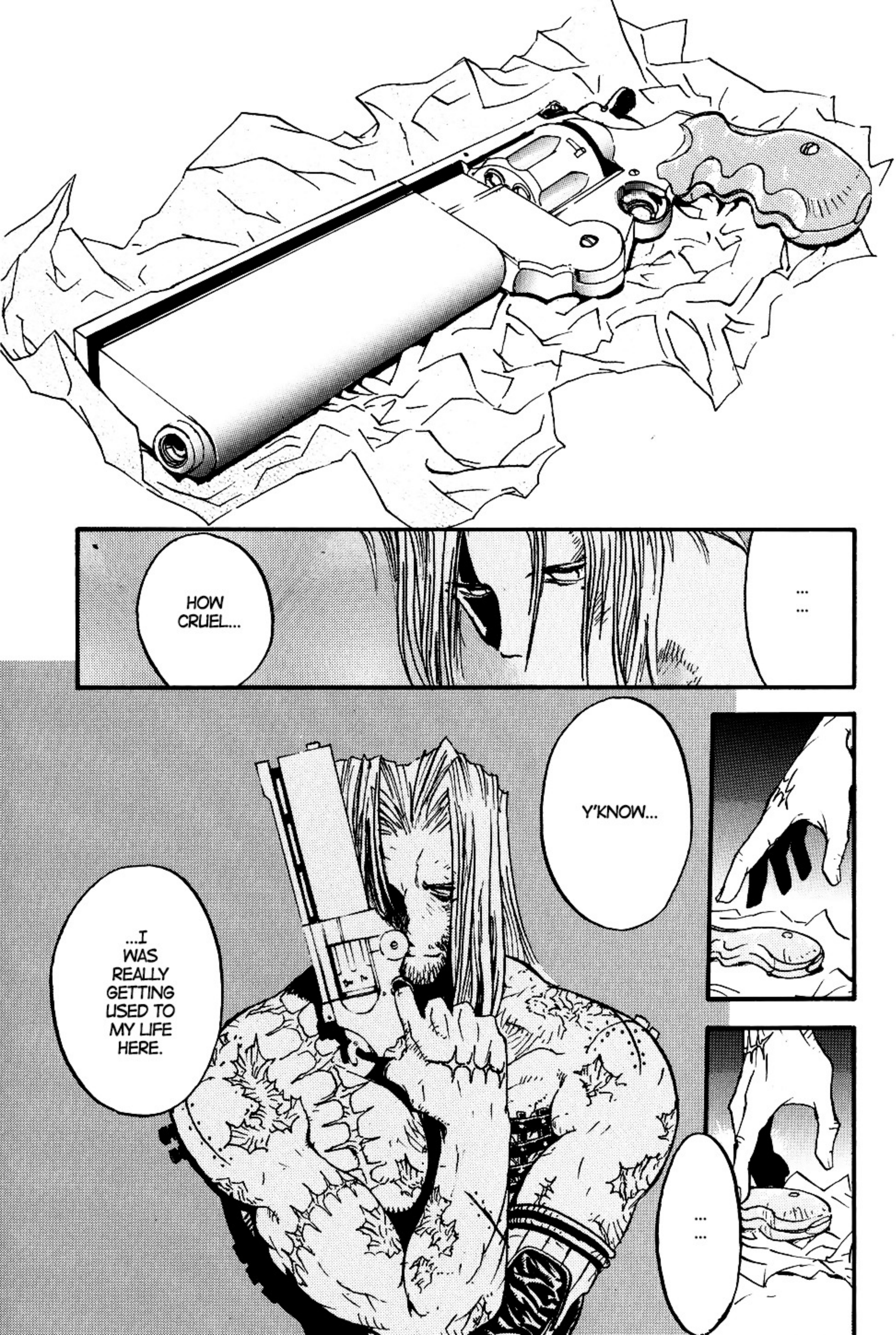

WHAT HAVE YA BEEN *DOIN'* THE PAST TWO YEARS?
I FINALLY FOUND YA, *DUMBASS.*

...
...

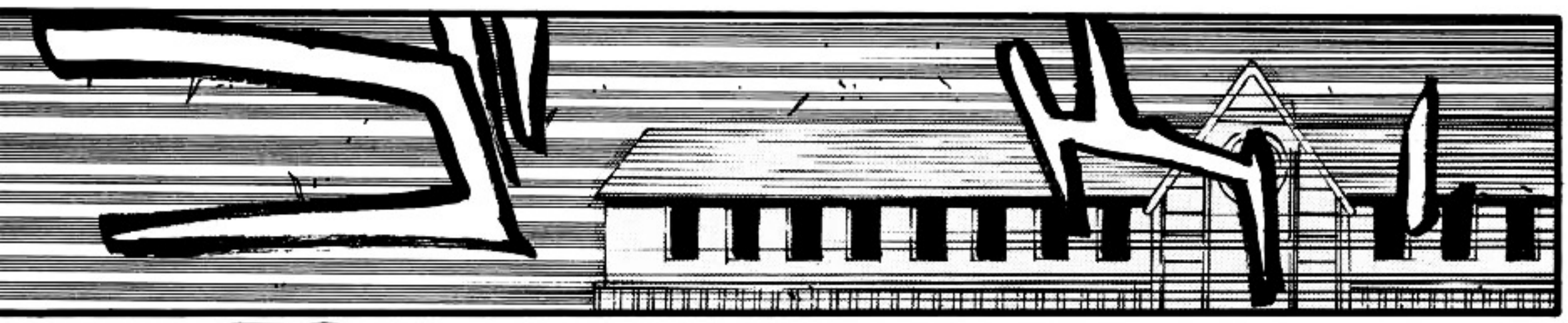
SOME LEGEND THAT IS.
STOP.
THE LEGEN-DARY GUNMAN WHO SHOT A HOLE IN THE MOON AND-

...THE STAM-PEDE.
VASH...

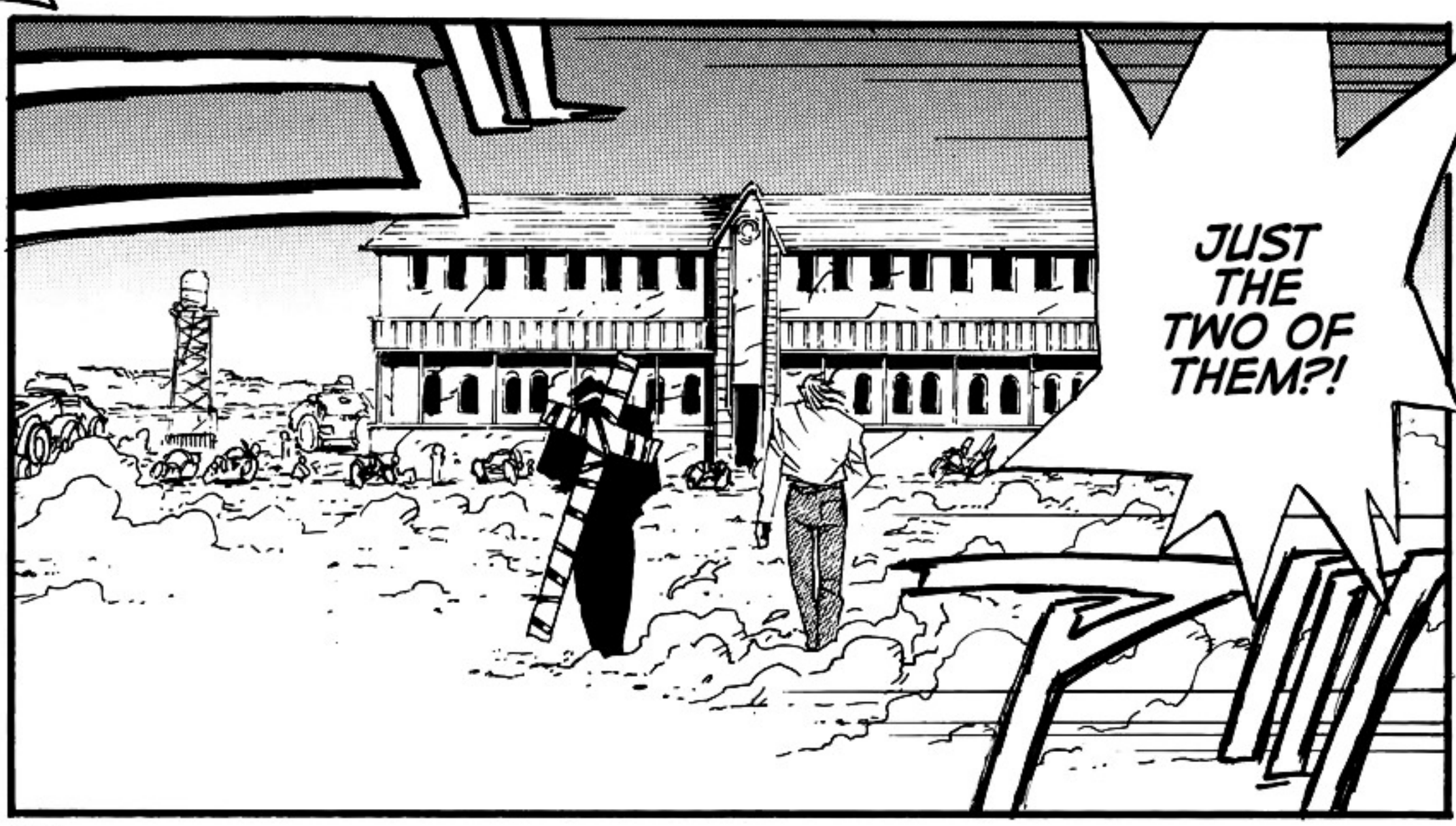
TO SIMPLY LIVE IN PEACE.
ANOTHER KIND OF LIFE... ANOTHER NAME...
I FEAR BECOMING THAT HORROR EVERY DAY.
SO I CHOSE TO RETIRE.
WITH THAT ARM...
THE HOUNDS OF HELL THRIVE ON TRAILING THE STENCH OF BLOOD AND GUNPOWDER.
OW...
SEEMS LIKE IT'S HOPELESS AFTER ALL, HUH?
...I COULD HAVE RAZED THE WHOLE PLANET.
?
YA DROPPED THIS TWO YEARS AGO.
SPECIAL DELIVERY.

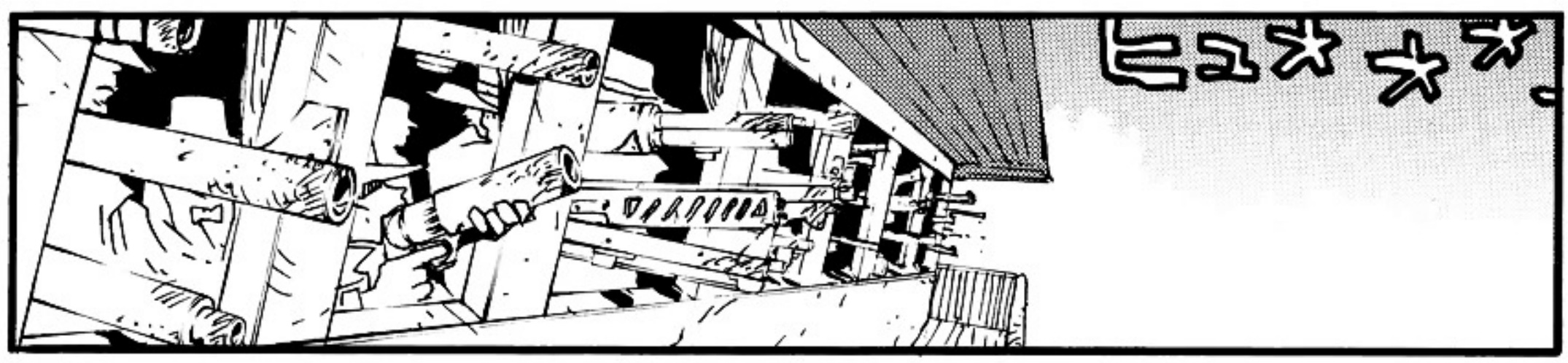

HOW CRUEL...
...
...
Y'KNOW...
...I WAS REALLY GETTING USED TO MY LIFE HERE.
...
...

SOMEONE'S GOTTA SHOW THEIR FANGS, OR SOMEONE ELSE'S GONNA CRY.
THEM'S THE BREAKS.



PLEASE DON'T FOLLOW US."
"WE'VE GONE TO GET LINA.
WHAT?!
THEY LEFT A NOTE.
THEY'RE GONE!


JUST THE TWO OF THEM?!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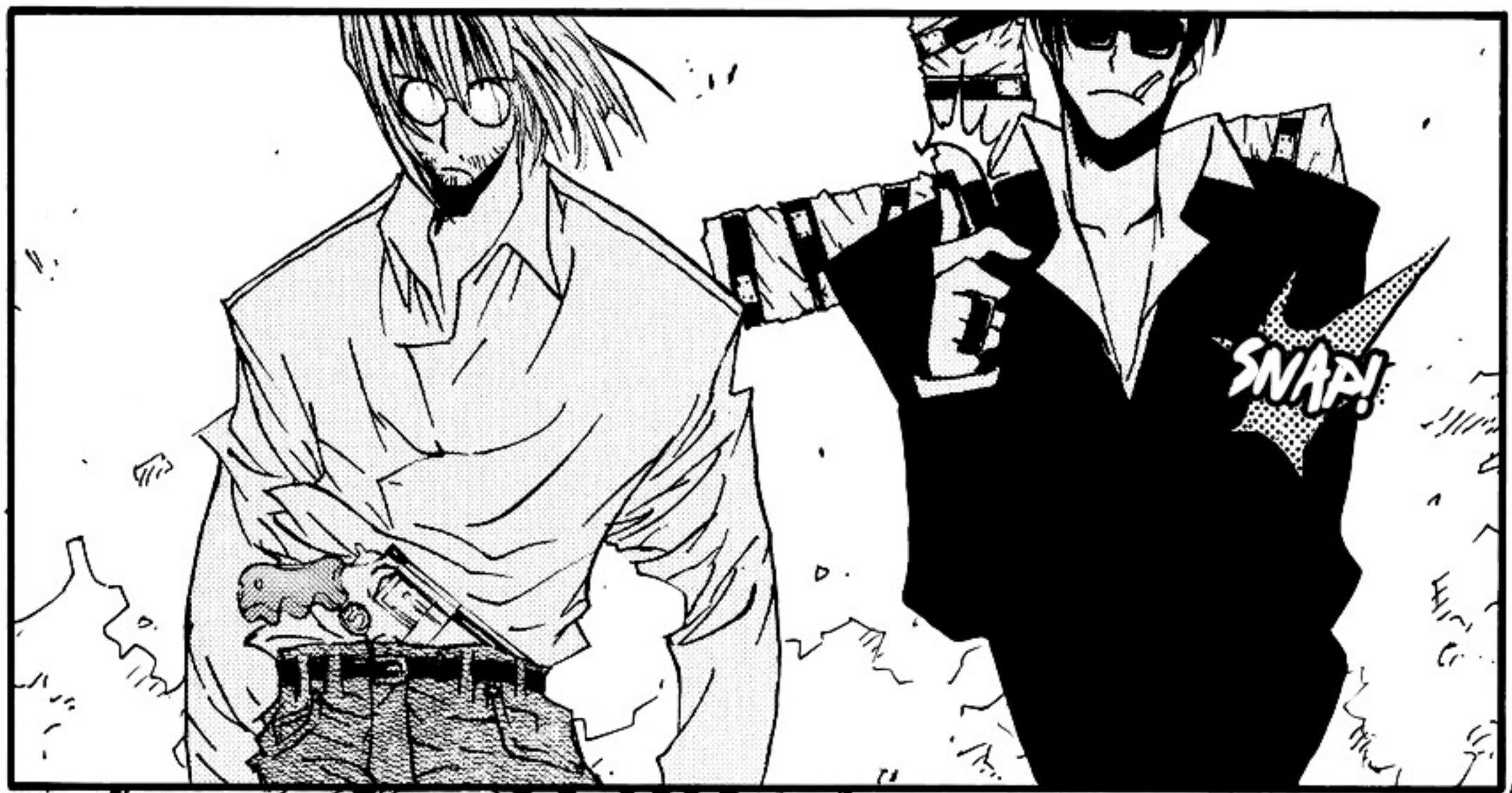
SNAP!

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HEY!
DON'T KILL ANYONE!
?!
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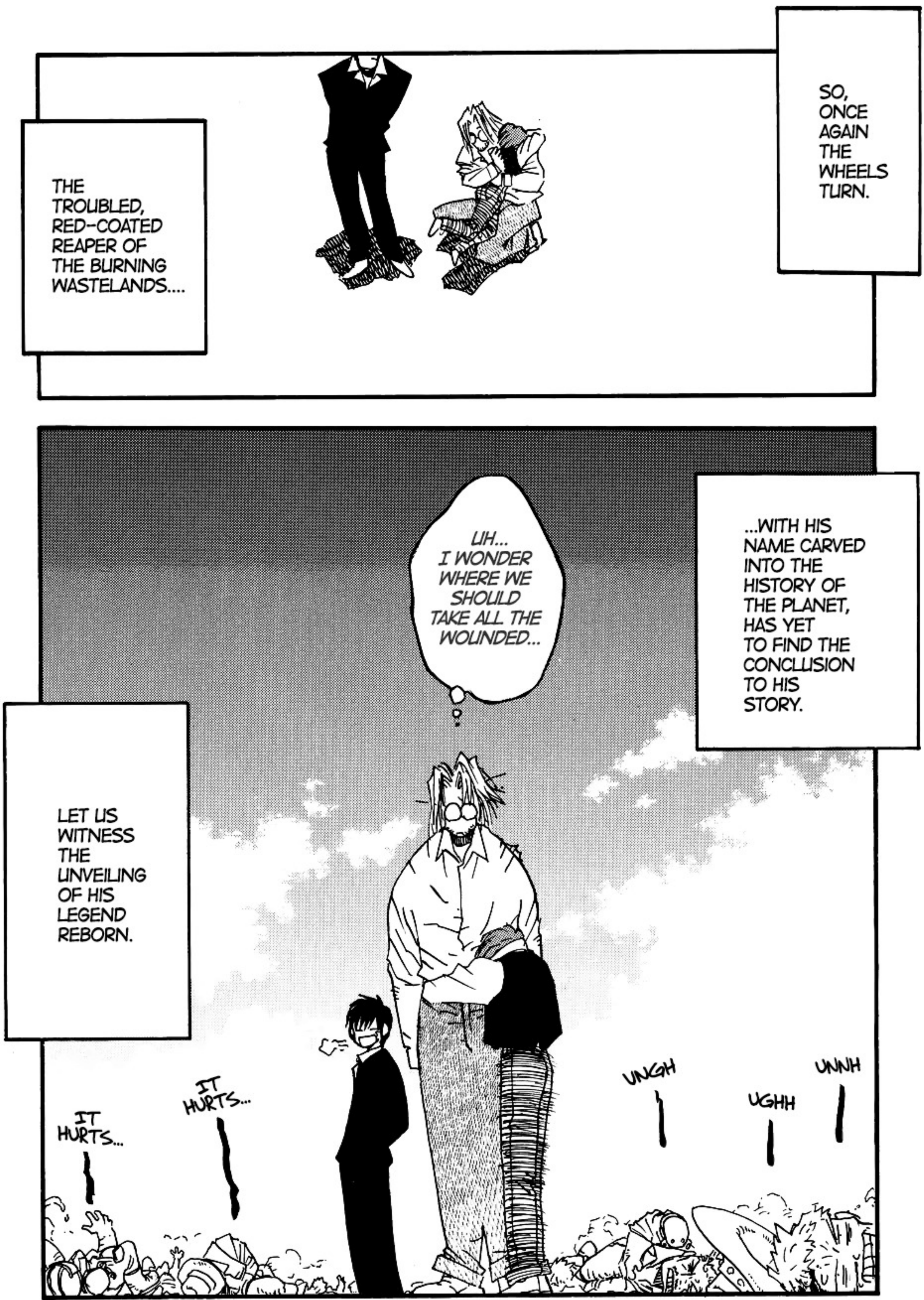
WHAT KIND OF PRIEST ARE YOU?!
"THOU SHALT NOT KILL!"
DON'T SCREW 'ROUND!
HUH?!
...KILL YA BOTH!
WE'LL ...
LET'S GO!

OW...
OWW...
NNNHH...
UNNGH...

DO I HAVE TO?
HUH?
I'M GONNA TEACH YA A LESSON.
SAY MY NAME! SAY IT!
I MADE IT THIS FAR. I CAN GO ON FOREVER!
SHUT UP!
I'D SAY THE GAME'S UP, WOULDN'T YOU?
JUST END THIS. WE'RE BOTH EXHAUSTED...
LET ME TEACH YA THE SIGNI-FICANCE OF MY NAME!
HA! THAT'S RIGHT!
VASH THE STAM-PEDE!
LOUDER!
...VASH THE STAMPEDE...
THE NAME MEANS...
...THAT BEFORE YER GUN HITS THE GROUND...
...I'LL HAVE SHOT YA RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART!
DROP YER GUN!
...

VASH THE STAMPEDE


THE TROUBLED, RED-COATED REAPER OF THE BURNING WASTELANDS....
SO, ONCE AGAIN THE WHEELS TURN.
UH... I WONDER WHERE WE SHOULD TAKE ALL THE WOUNDED...
...WITH HIS NAME CARVED INTO THE HISTORY OF THE PLANET, HAS YET TO FIND THE CONCLUSION TO HIS STORY.
LET US WITNESS THE UNVEILING OF HIS LEGEND REBORN.
IT HURTS...
IT HURTS...
UNGH
UGHH
UNNH

YOU'RE SAYING JUST THE TWO OF THEM TOOK OUT THE *WHOLE GANG?!*

...JUST THE TWO OF THEM?!

THERE'S NO WAY IT'S JUST *THAT* SIMPLE!

YOU THINK THIS IS *JUST* ABOUT *SKILL?!*

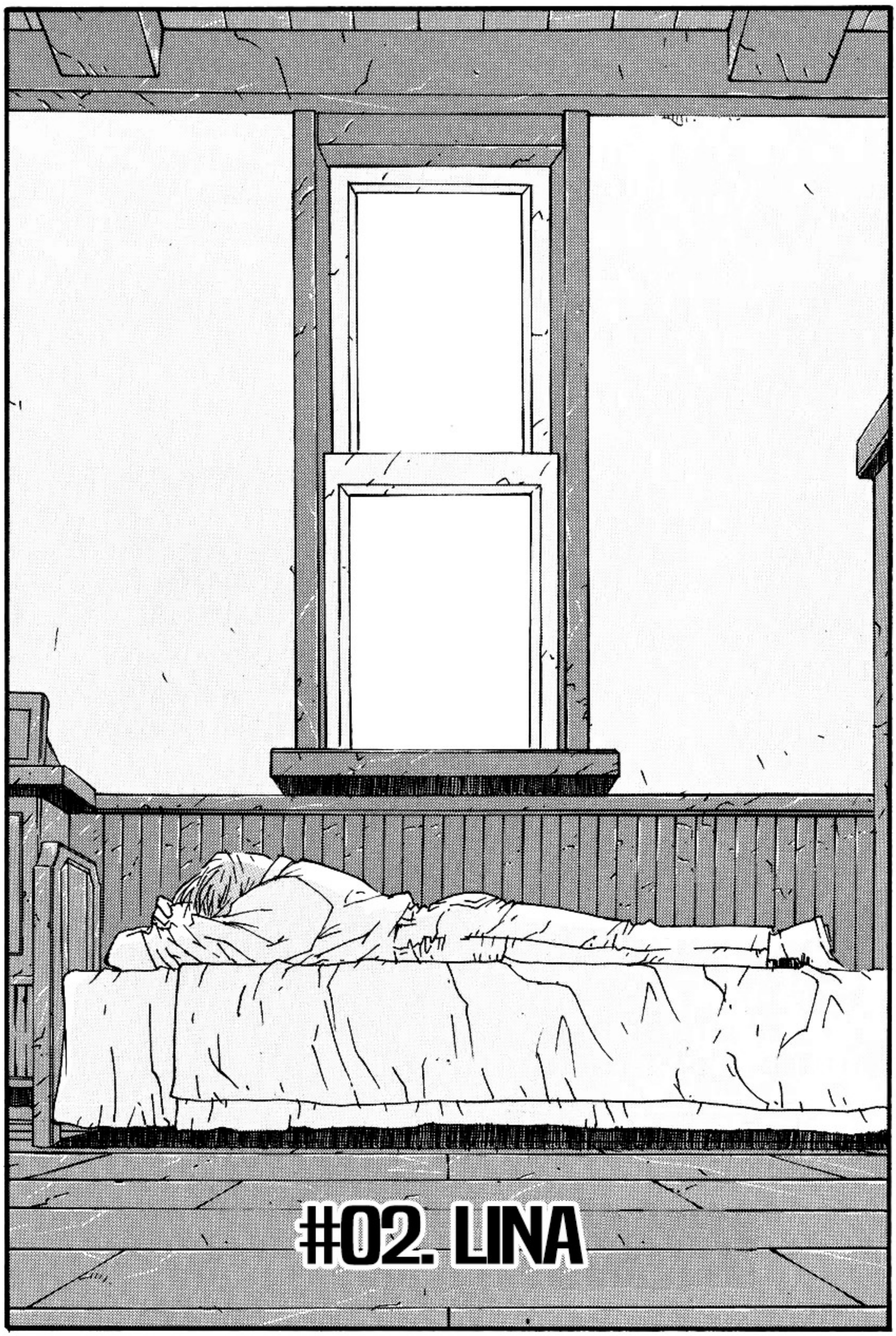
SKILLED?!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE AS SKILLED AS THIS.

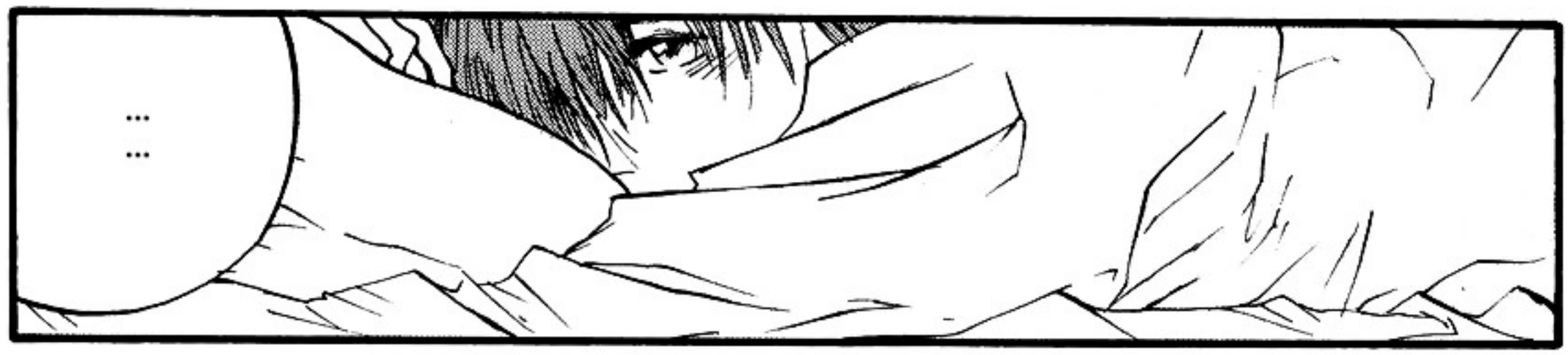
YEAH...

SOMETHING FREAKY IS GOING ON HERE...

...
...


#02. LINA

CHEE-
CHEE-
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP


...
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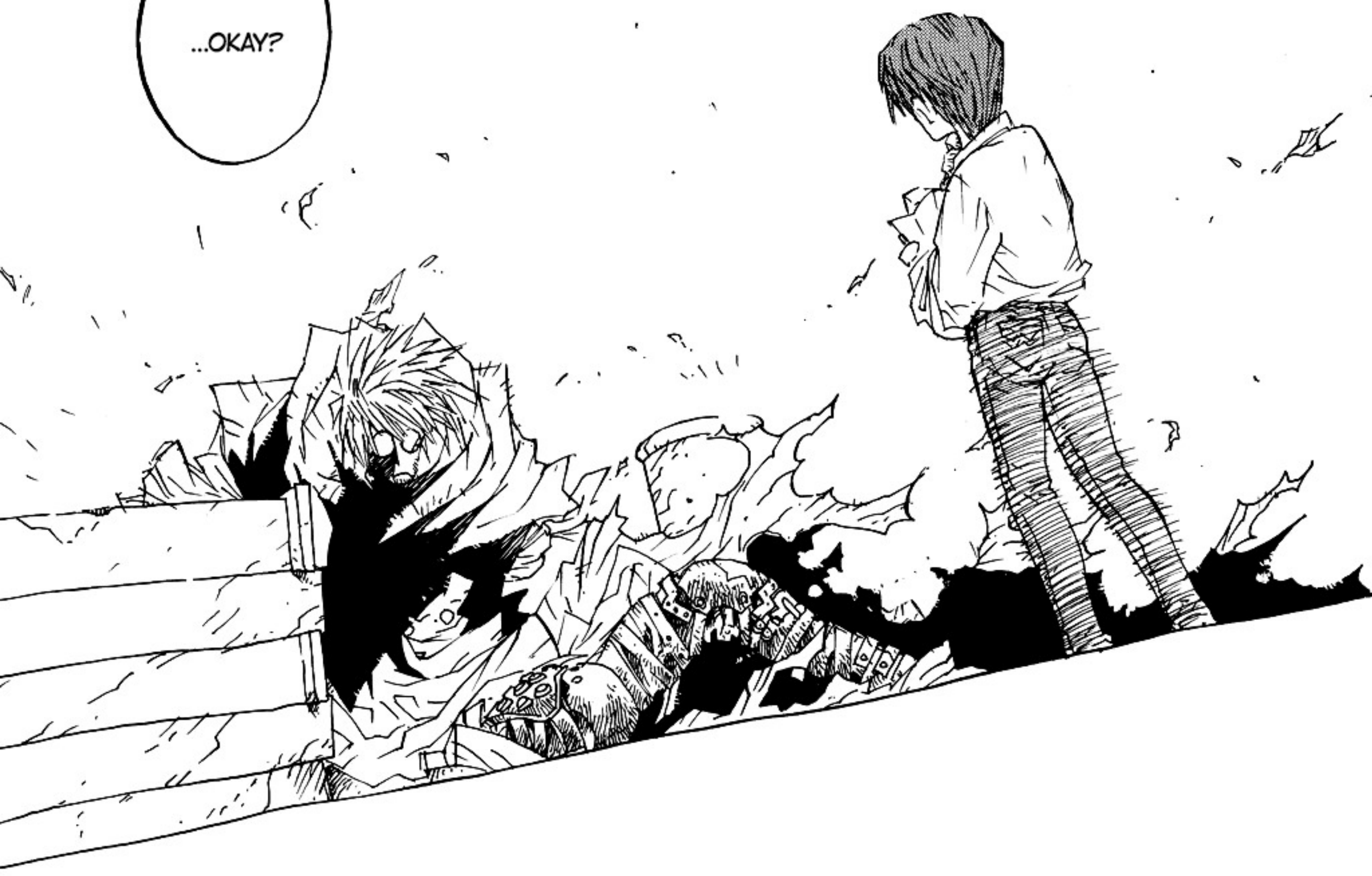
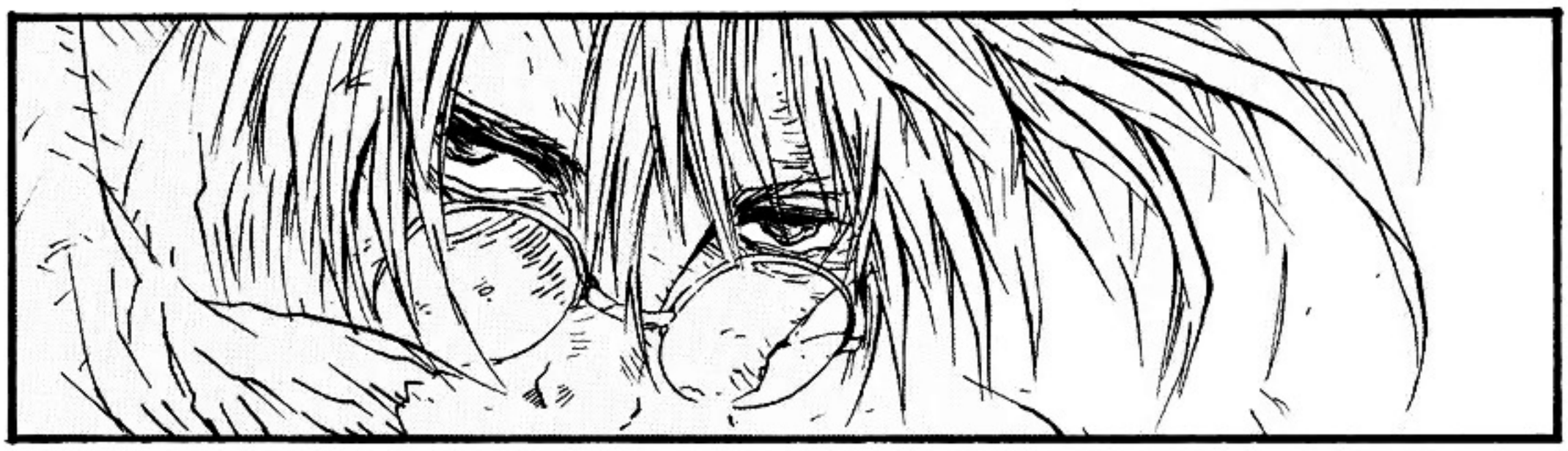
ARE
YOU...
...
...

...OKAY?





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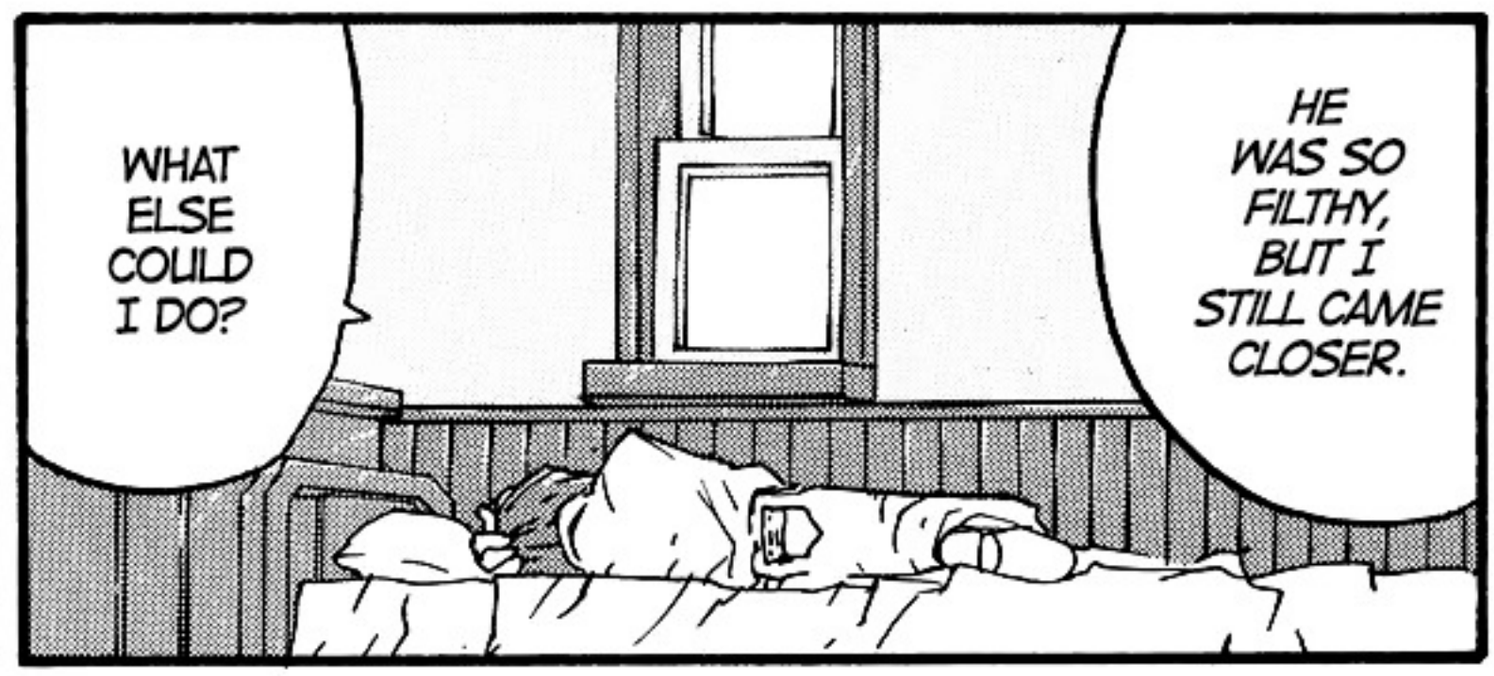
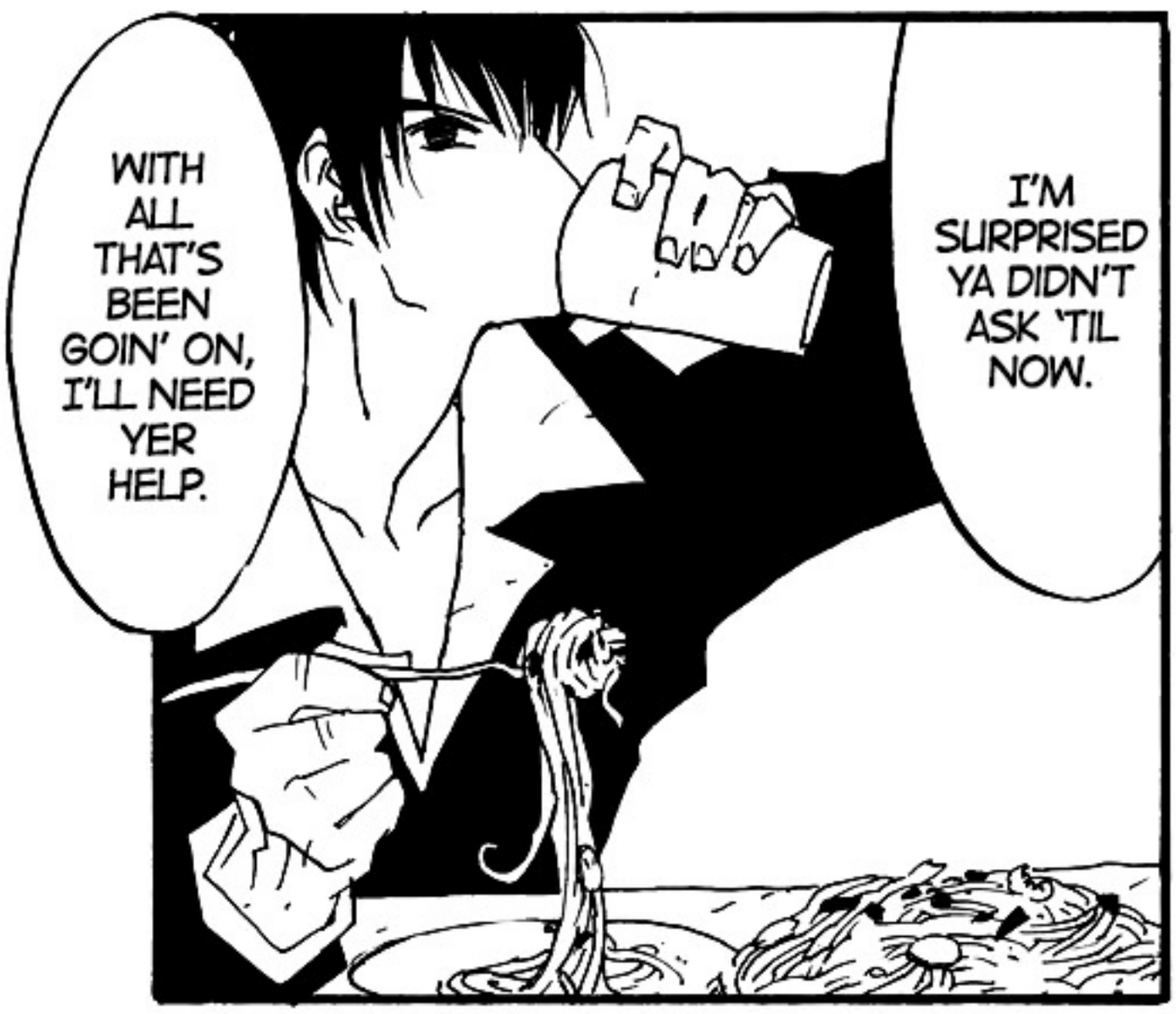
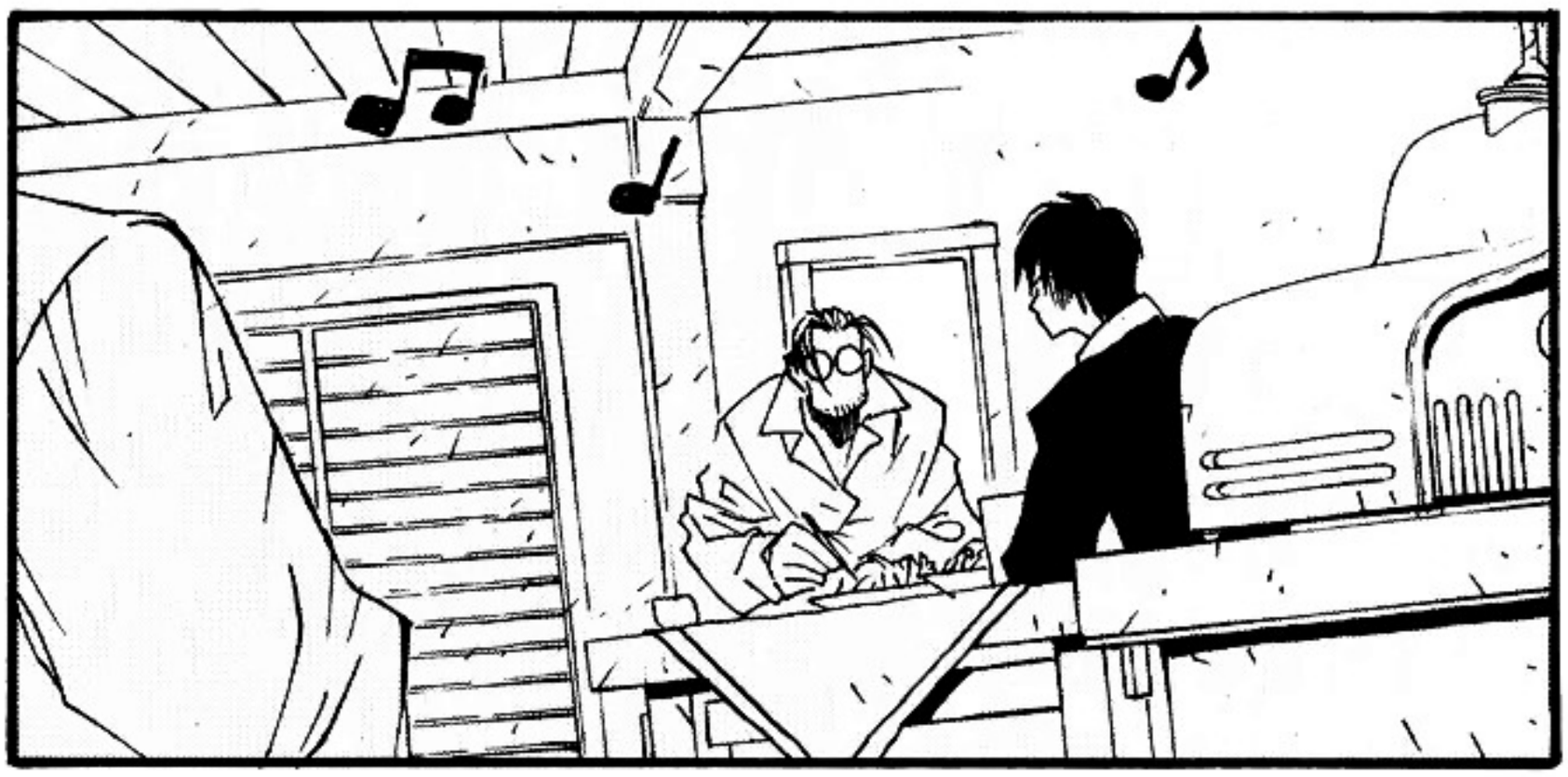
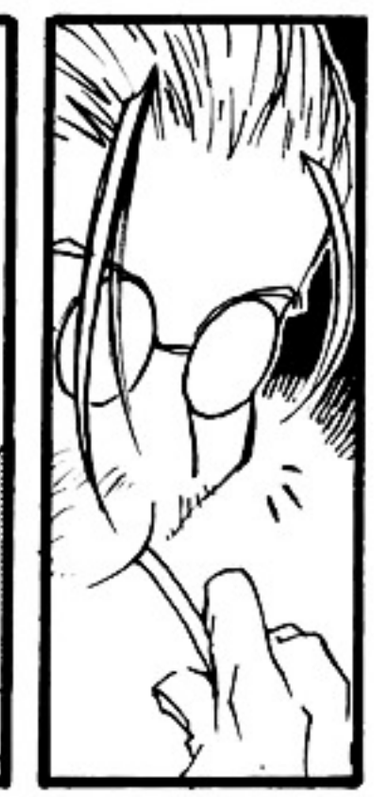

WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?
HE WAS SO FILTHY, BUT I STILL CAME CLOSER.


WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN GOIN' ON, I'LL NEED YER HELP.
I'M SURPRISED YA DIDN'T ASK 'TIL NOW.

...WHERE YOU HEADED?
...SO, THEN...

I DIDN'T SPEND THE LAST TWO YEARS LOOKIN' FOR YA JUST ON A WHIM!
YA IDIOT!
SO THIS ISN'T A DINE AND DASH?
AH
WHAT DREAD-FUL MANNERS!





EVER HEARD OF A TOWN NAMED CARCASAS?

SOMETHIN' HAD BEEN SCRAWLED ACROSS THE MONUMENT IN THE CENTRAL PLAZA.

A NAME WRITTEN IN ***CRIMSON RED.***

THE FEDERATION SEARCH-PARTY DIDN'T FIND A MAN, WOMAN, NOR CHILD.

HOWEVER, THEY ***DID*** FIND SOMETHIN' OUTTA PLACE.

EVERYTHIN' WAS LEFT BEHIND JUST AS IT WAS.

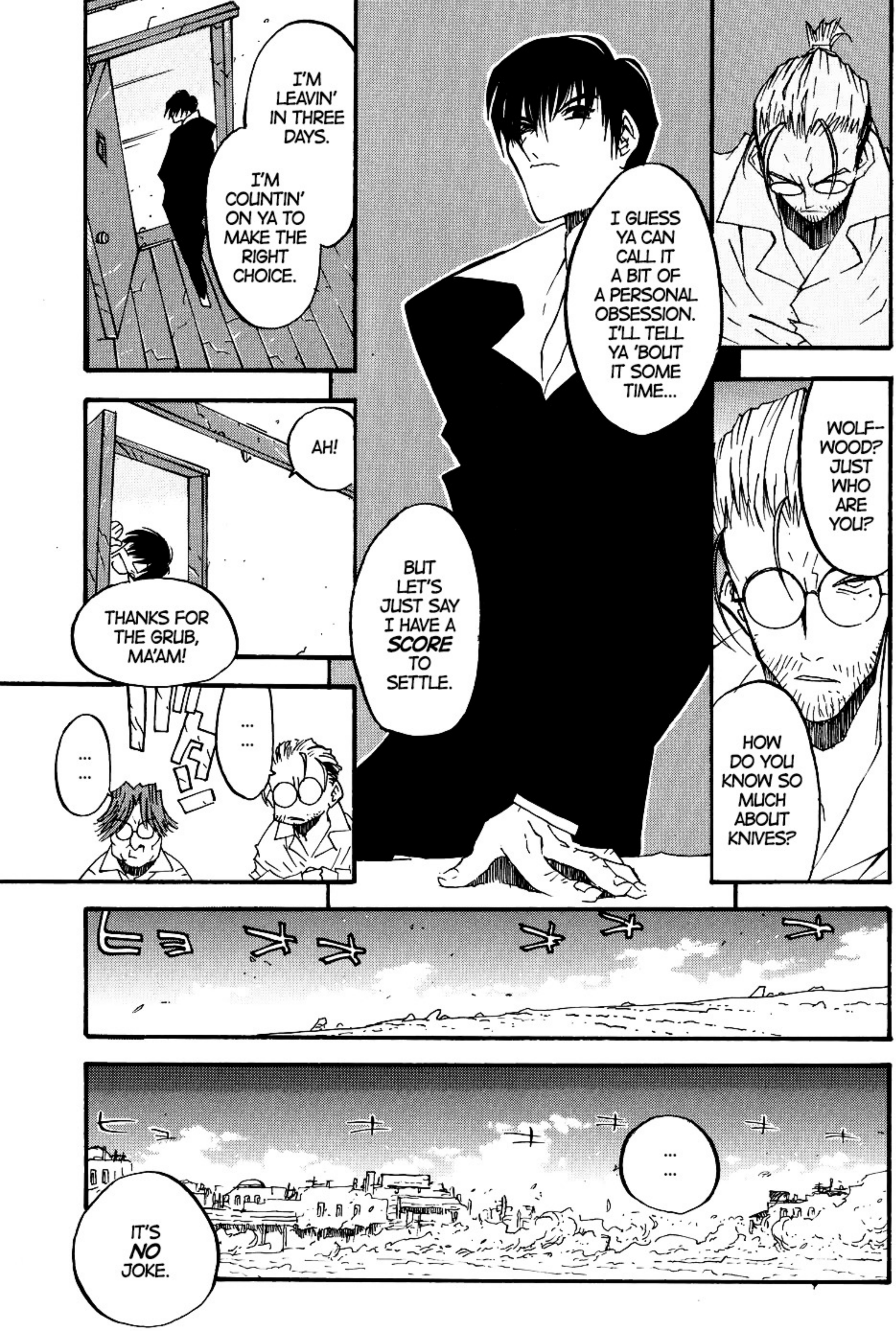
LIKE THE RESIDENTS VANISHED INTO THIN AIR.

...
...

THAT'S WHAT IT SAID.

KNIVES.

THAT'S RIGHT.
KNIVES.
HE'S ON THE MOVE AGAIN.
HE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT LEAVIN' HIS CALLIN' CARD.
OF COURSE.

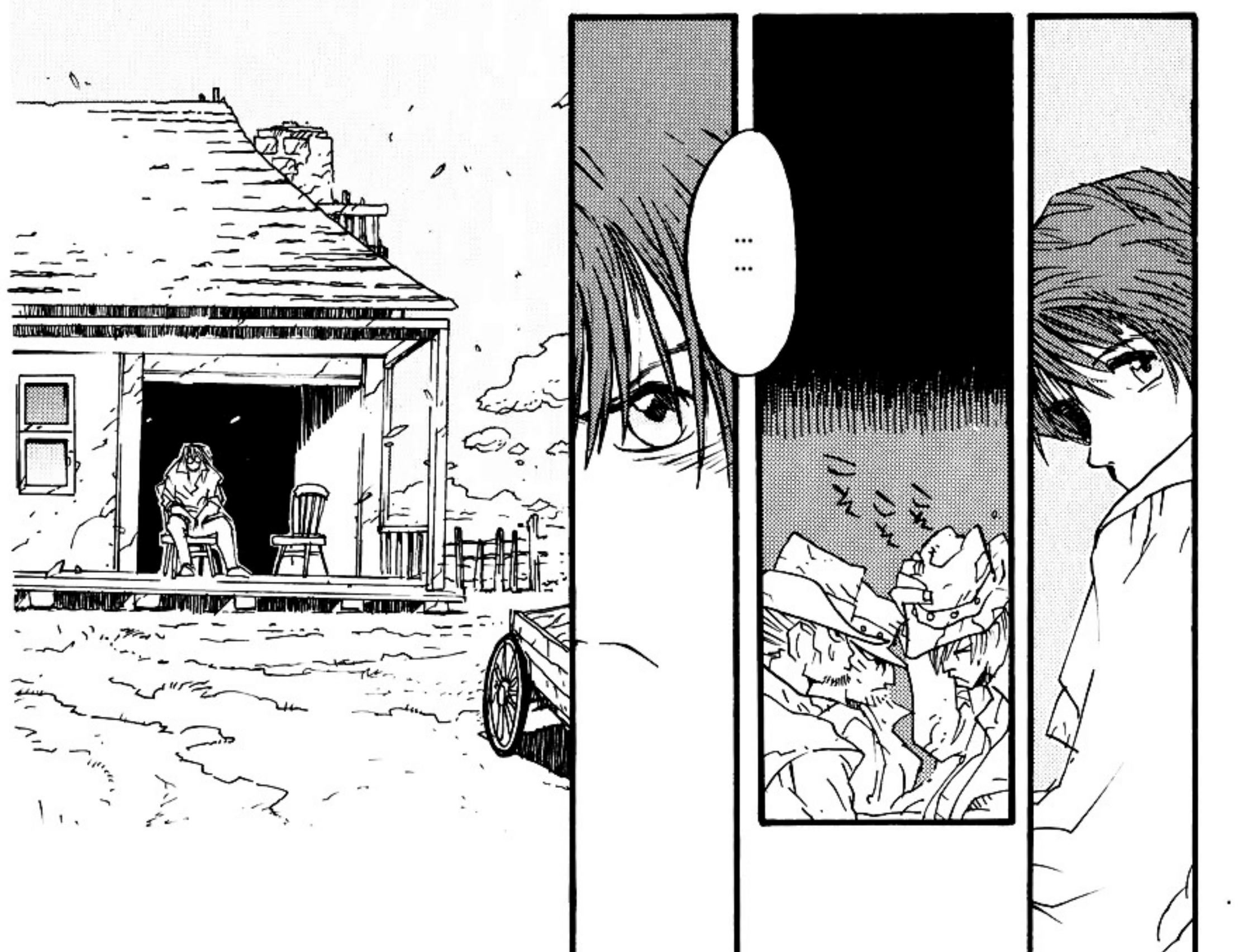

I'M LEAVIN' IN THREE DAYS.
I'M COUNTIN' ON YA TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE.
I GUESS YA CAN CALL IT A BIT OF A PERSONAL OBSESSION. I'LL TELL YA 'BOUT IT SOME TIME...
AH!
BUT LET'S JUST SAY I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE.
THANKS FOR THE GRUB, MA'AM!
WOLF-WOOD? JUST WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT KNIVES?
...
...
...
...
IT'S NO JOKE.

.....
.....
.....
HEY, LINA.
.....
.....

AFTER ALL HE'S DESTROYED, DOES HE EVEN FEEL *REGRET*?!
RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES FOR TWO YEARS.
I WON'T *STAND* FOR THIS! WE SHOULD RUN HIM OUTTA TOWN!
...
...
?!

I'M TELLING YOU, TWO MEN WHO CAN TAKE OUT OVER SIXTY HEAVILY ARMED BANDITS ARE MONSTERS!
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? VASH THE STAMPEDE!

I'M OKAY, THANKS.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, LINA?
BARKEEP, I'LL HAVE THE USUAL.


...
...

...THIS TOWN WILL DROWN IN BLOOD.
IF HE AND HIS FOLLOWERS SNIFF ME OUT...
THEN IT'S NOT SAFE TO STAY HERE.
IF IT'S REALLY TRUE...
...THAT KNIVES IS ON THE MOVE.
...MADE UP YOUR MIND?
HAVE YOU...
A RAGING FLOOD...
YES.
...
...
I HAVE TO LEAVE.
JEEZ, THOSE JERKS!
WHO THE HELL DO THEY THINK THEY ARE?! IT'S THANKS TO HIM THAT THEY CAN SIT AROUND AND DRINK AT NOON!

I *CAN'T* PUT ALL OF YOU IN DANGER.

BUT, I CAN'T.

THANK YOU.

IS THERE NOTHING THAT WE CAN DO?

MAYBE IF YOU TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY?

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M THINKING OF YOU AND LINA.

THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME THE *MOST.*

SO, YOU'LL LEAVE AND END UP *BEATEN* AND *ALONE* IN ANOTHER ALLEY SOMEWHERE?

ERIKS, YOU IDIOT!

HEY!

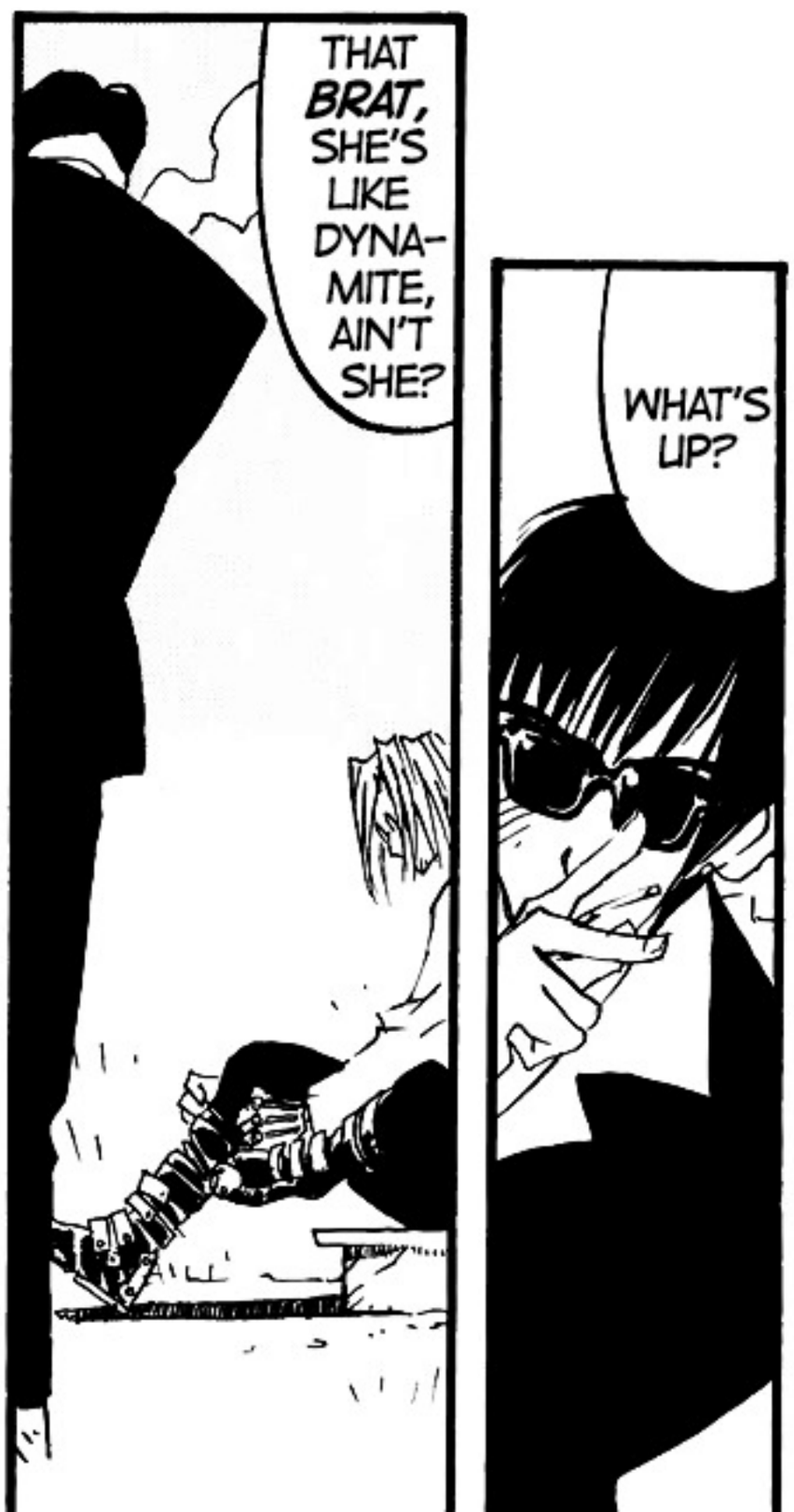
LINA!

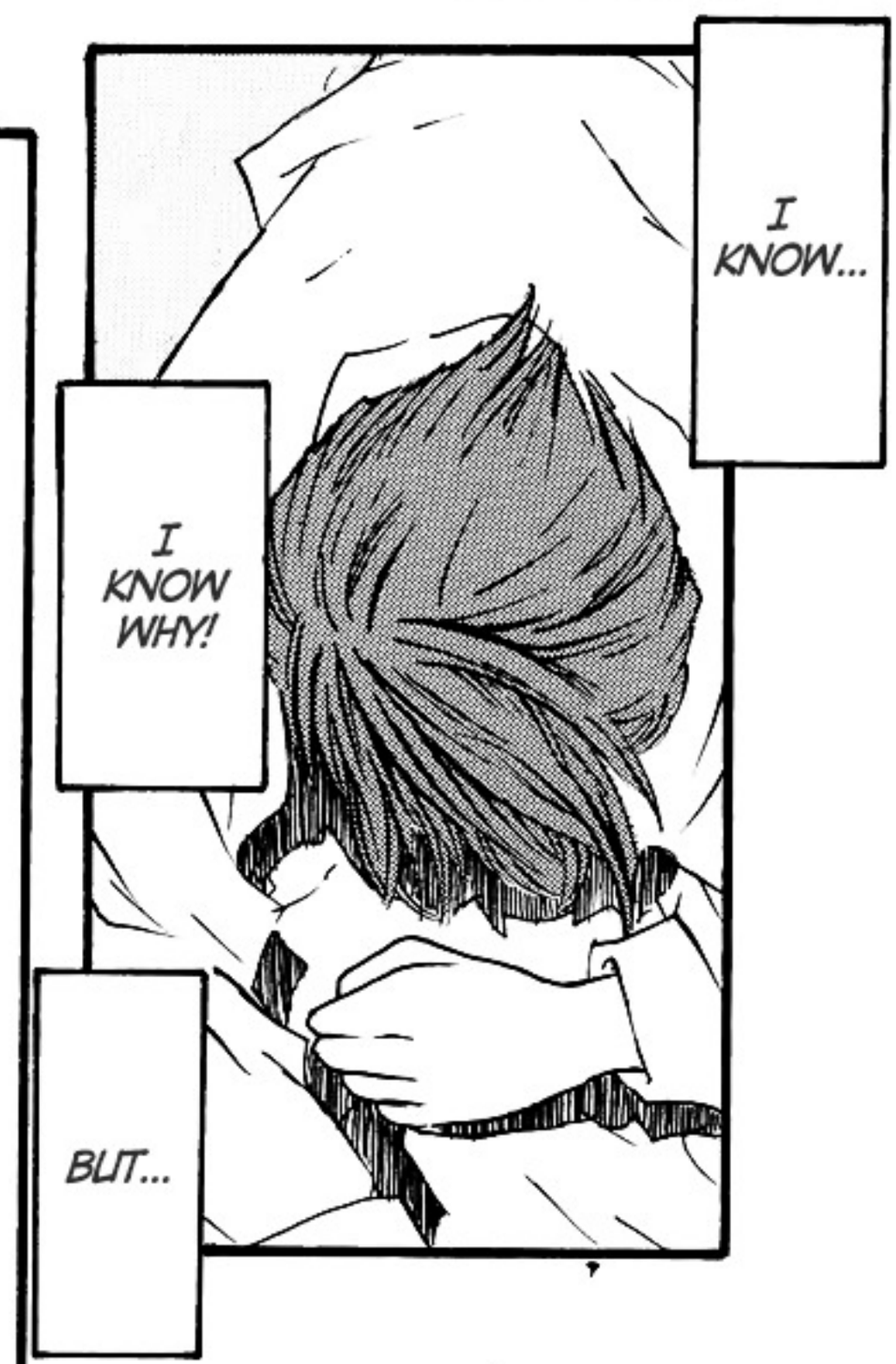
AH!

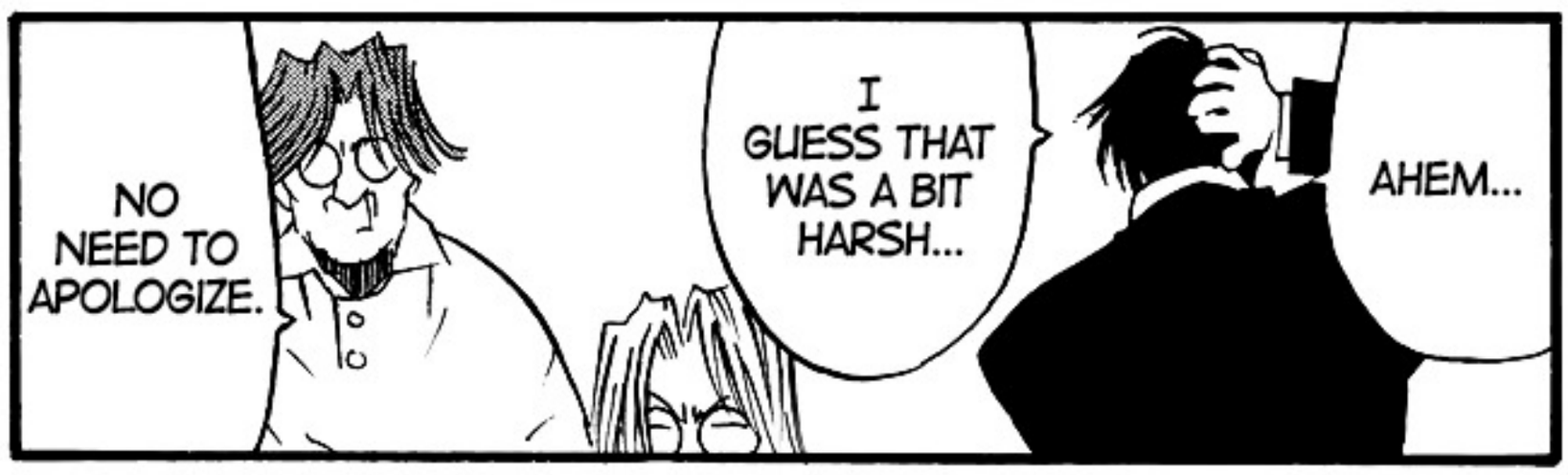
"I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT INTO SUCH A TERRIBLE STATE...
"YOU POOR THING.

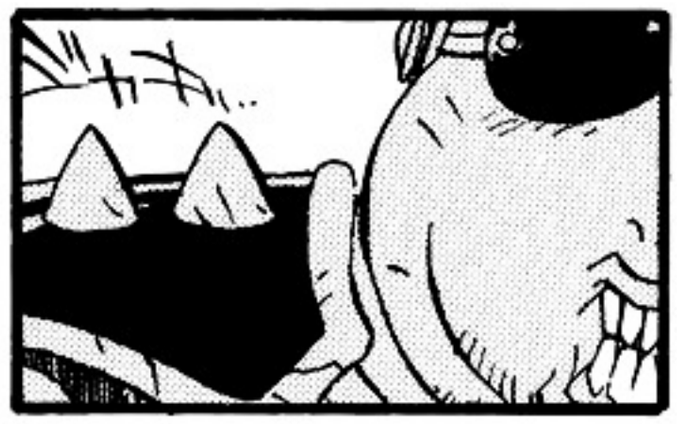
LINA, OPEN THE DOOR!
LISTEN TO ME!
LINA!
BOOM!

"IT'S OKAY.
"AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, YOU'LL BE SAFE."
"YOUR EYES MUST HAVE SEEN SO MANY HORRIBLE THINGS.


THAT BRAT, SHE'S LIKE DYNA-MITE, AIN'T SHE?
WHAT'S UP?


I KNOW...
I KNOW WHY!
BUT...


NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
I GUESS THAT WAS A BIT HARSH...
AHEM...



UNLIKE YOU, HIS LACK OF SHREWDNESS IS PART OF HIS CHARM.
SIGH
YOU SHOULD GIVE HIM A BIT OF A BREAK.

MA'AM!
?!
GET INSIDE NOW!
HURRY!
AH!

YOU BETTER!

REMEMBER ME?

...
...

WELL, WELL, WELL!

IF IT AIN'T THE LIL' DOGGY! WHAT A PLEASURE!

...
...

DUNNO WHAT COWARDLY TRICKS YOU USED, BUT THEY WON'T GET PAST ME!

YOU SUR-PRISED ME!

I CAME BACK TO FIND THE ENTIRE CREW BLOWN TO BITS.

WASN'T ME.

I WAS SURE YOU GOT HIM...

THE HELL? I THOUGHT YA GOT 'IM?

YARI!

SHEESH.

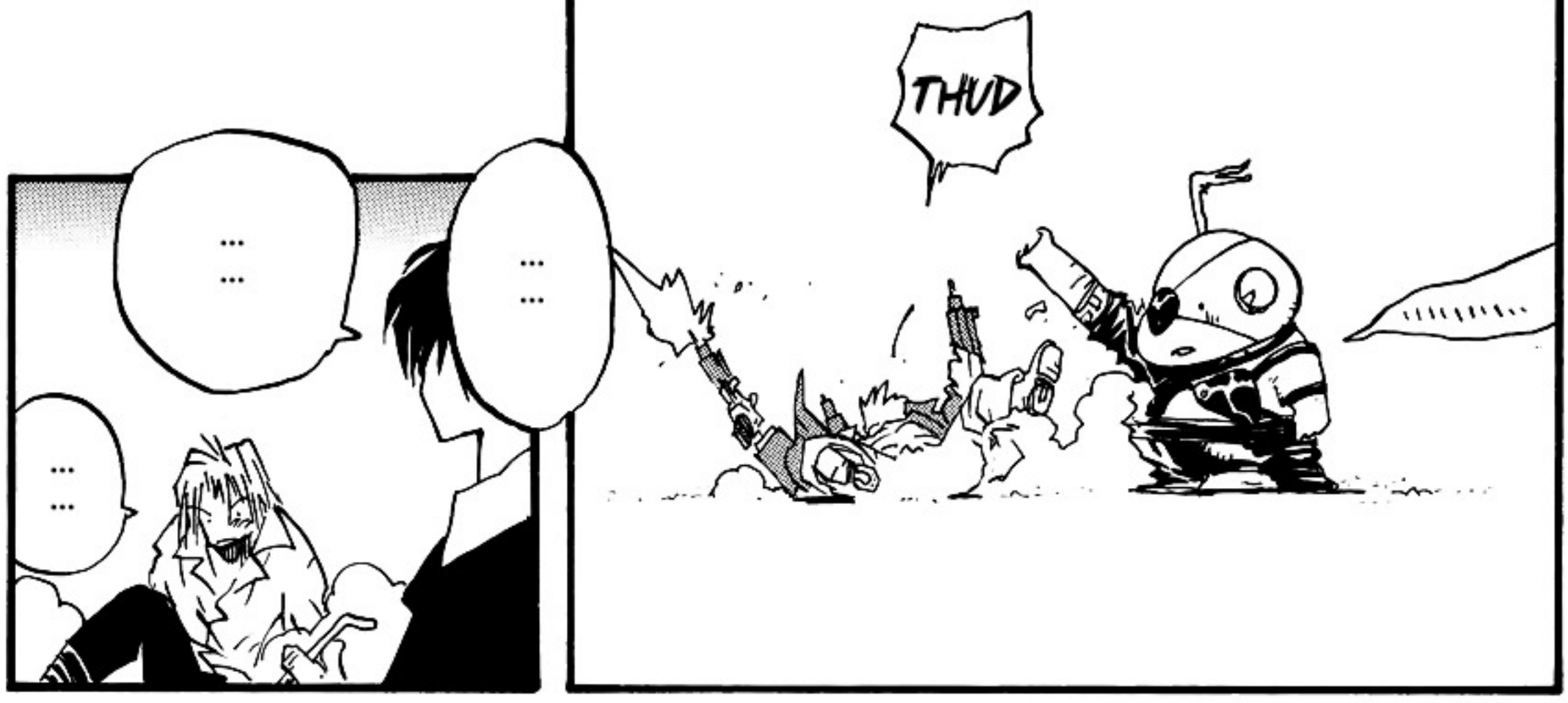
YOU'RE NEXT!

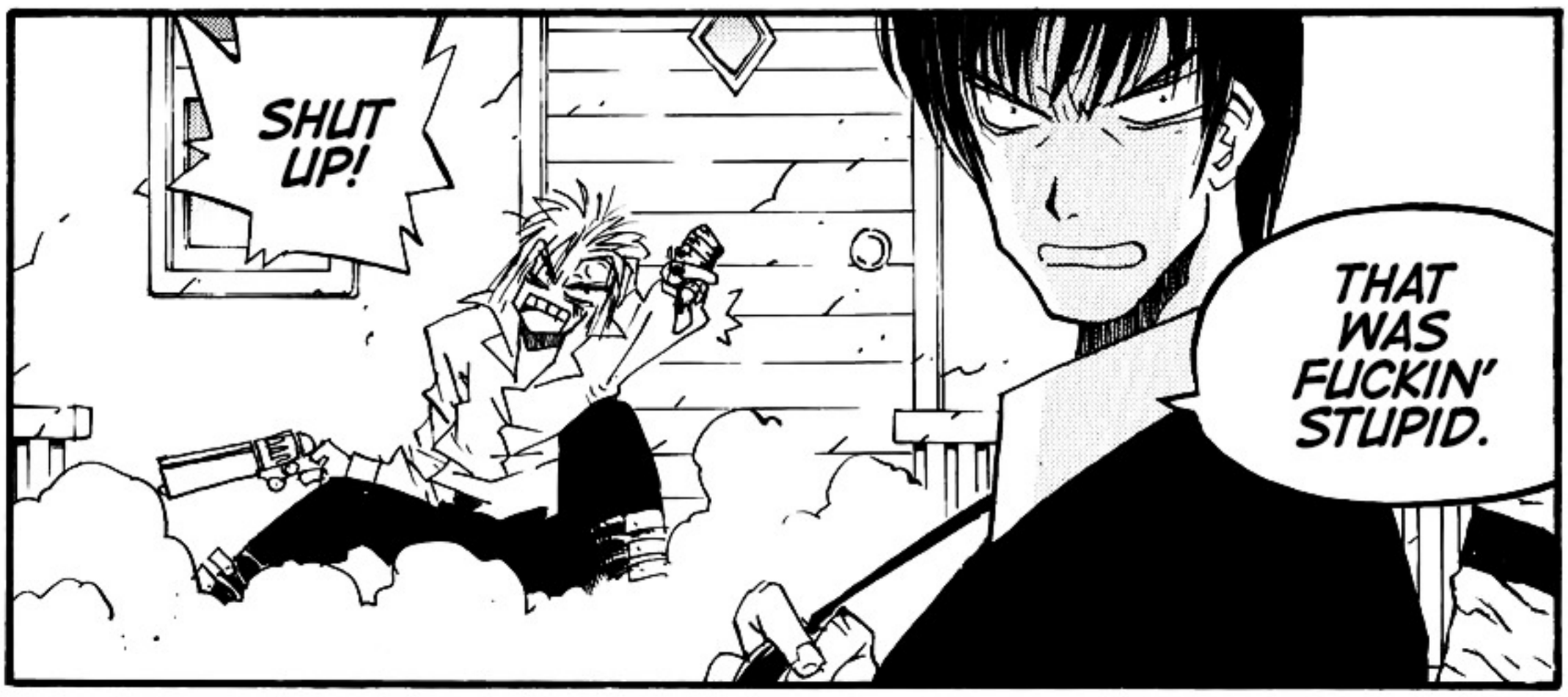
DON'T ACT SO SHOCKED, PRIEST-MAN!

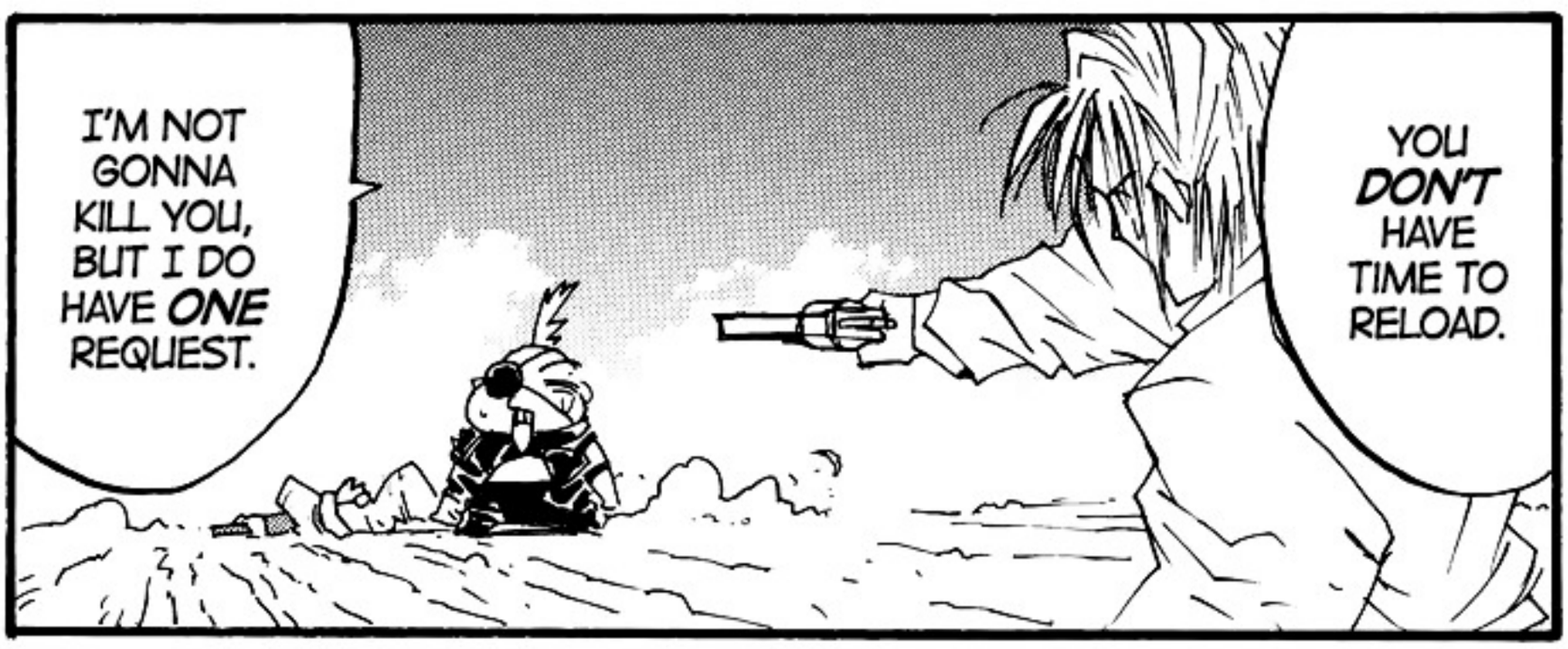
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA, DOESN'T IT?
I DON'T CARE WHICH DROPS FIRST! THIS IS GOING DOWN BIG TIME! AND THERE'S NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME!
WITH JUST ONE SHOT I COULD EASILY BLOW YA TO PIECES!
OR I COULD TEAR THAT HOUSE DOWN!
SHALL WE DANCE?
...?!
CHNK!
TOO SCARED TO MOVE YOUR ARMS...
...OR LEGS, HUH?!
I SAID STOP!
I WASN'T DONE!
HEY! STOP!
H-!
WHA-?

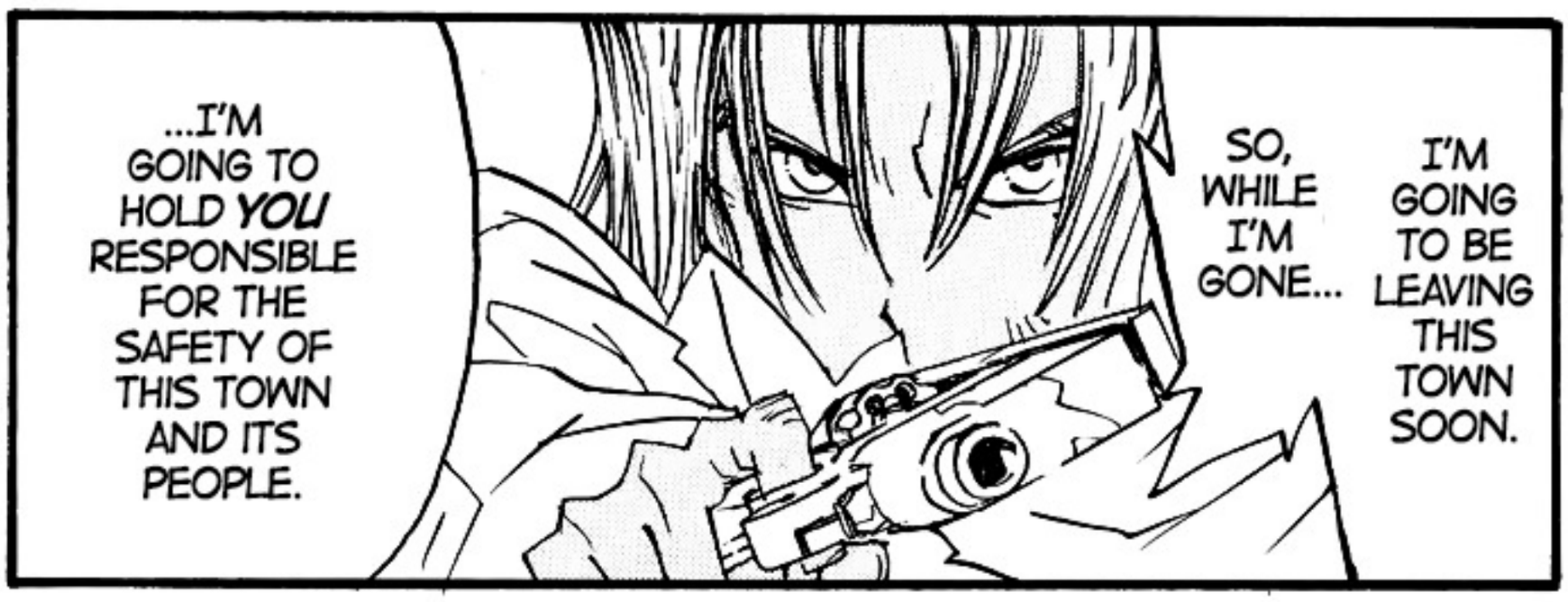
C'MON.
YA BALD PIG!
...
...
?!
YOU BASTARD!
I'LL KILL YA! I WILL!
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!
DI
EE!

GOTCHA!


...
...
...
...
THUD


SHUT UP!
THAT WAS FUCKIN' STUPID.


I'M NOT GONNA KILL YOU, BUT I DO HAVE ONE REQUEST.
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO RELOAD.


...I'M GOING TO HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF THIS TOWN AND ITS PEOPLE.
SO, WHILE I'M GONE...
I'M GOING TO BE LEAVING THIS TOWN SOON.

...I *WILL* HUNT YOU DOWN, ACROSS THE *ENTIRE* PLANET, ALL THE WAY DOWN INTO THE *DEEPEST* PITS OF *HELL*.

SHOULD YOU FAIL...

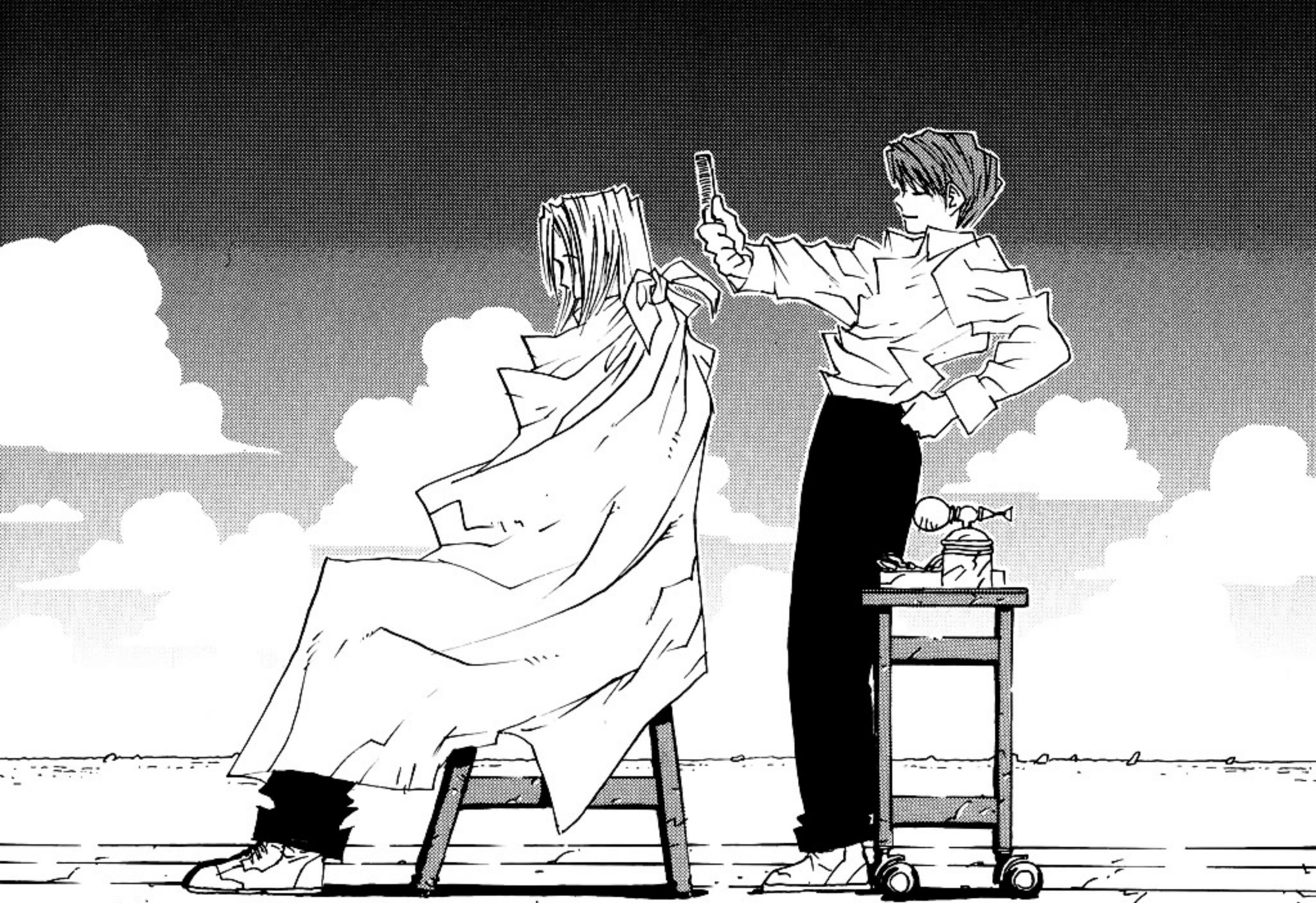
HOWEVER...

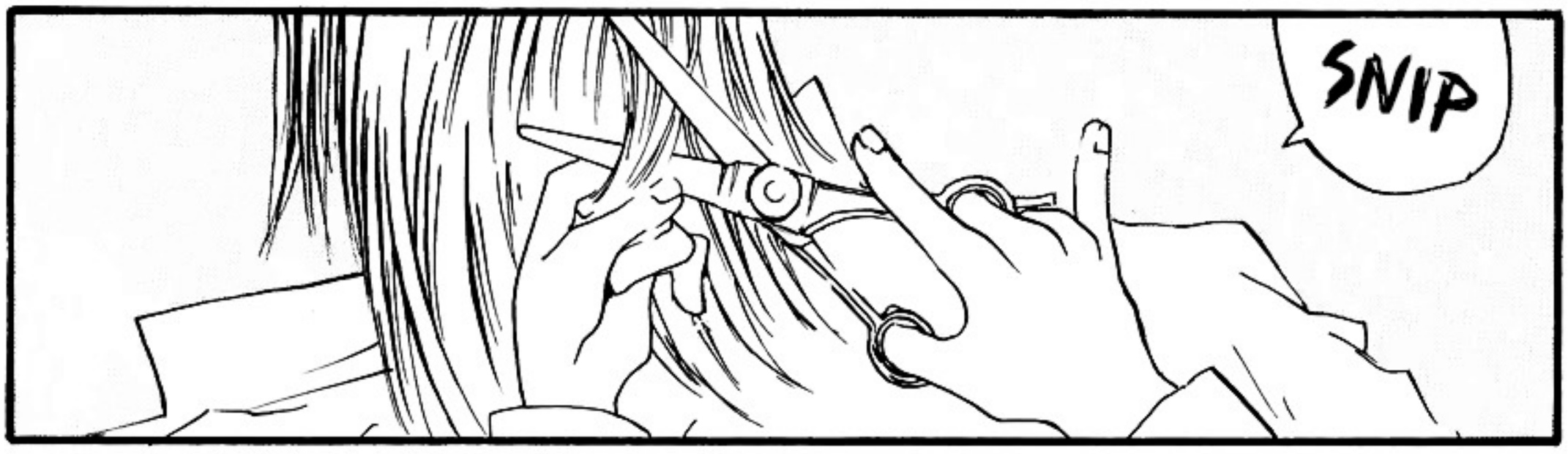
KEEP THIS PLACE *SAFE!*

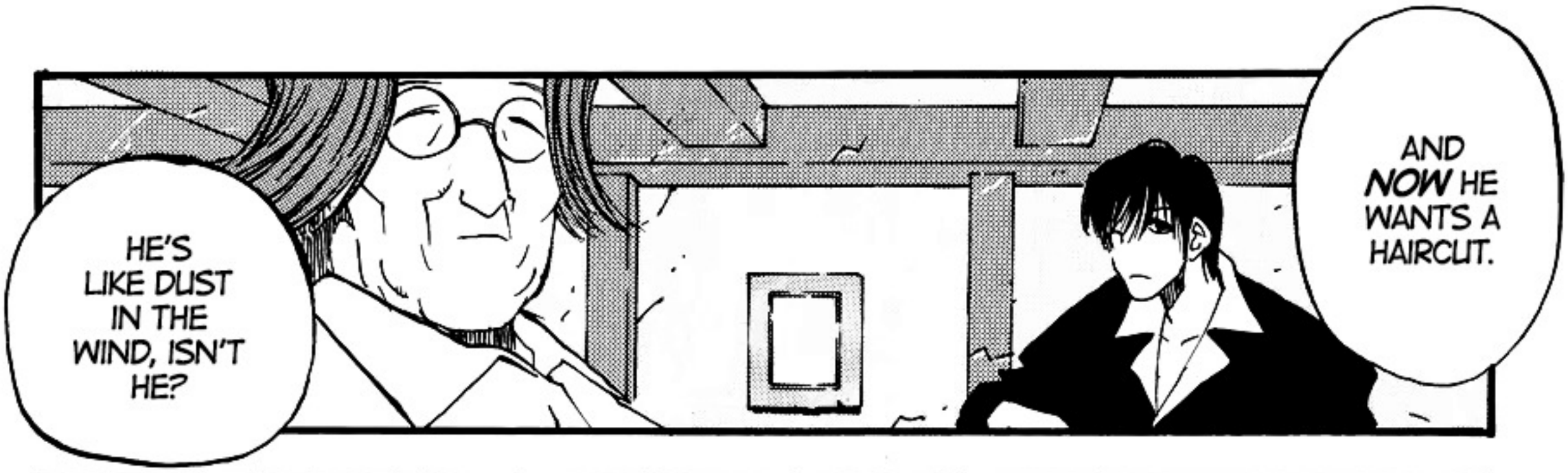
PROTECT THE TOWN FROM OTHER BANDITS.

WHA-...?!

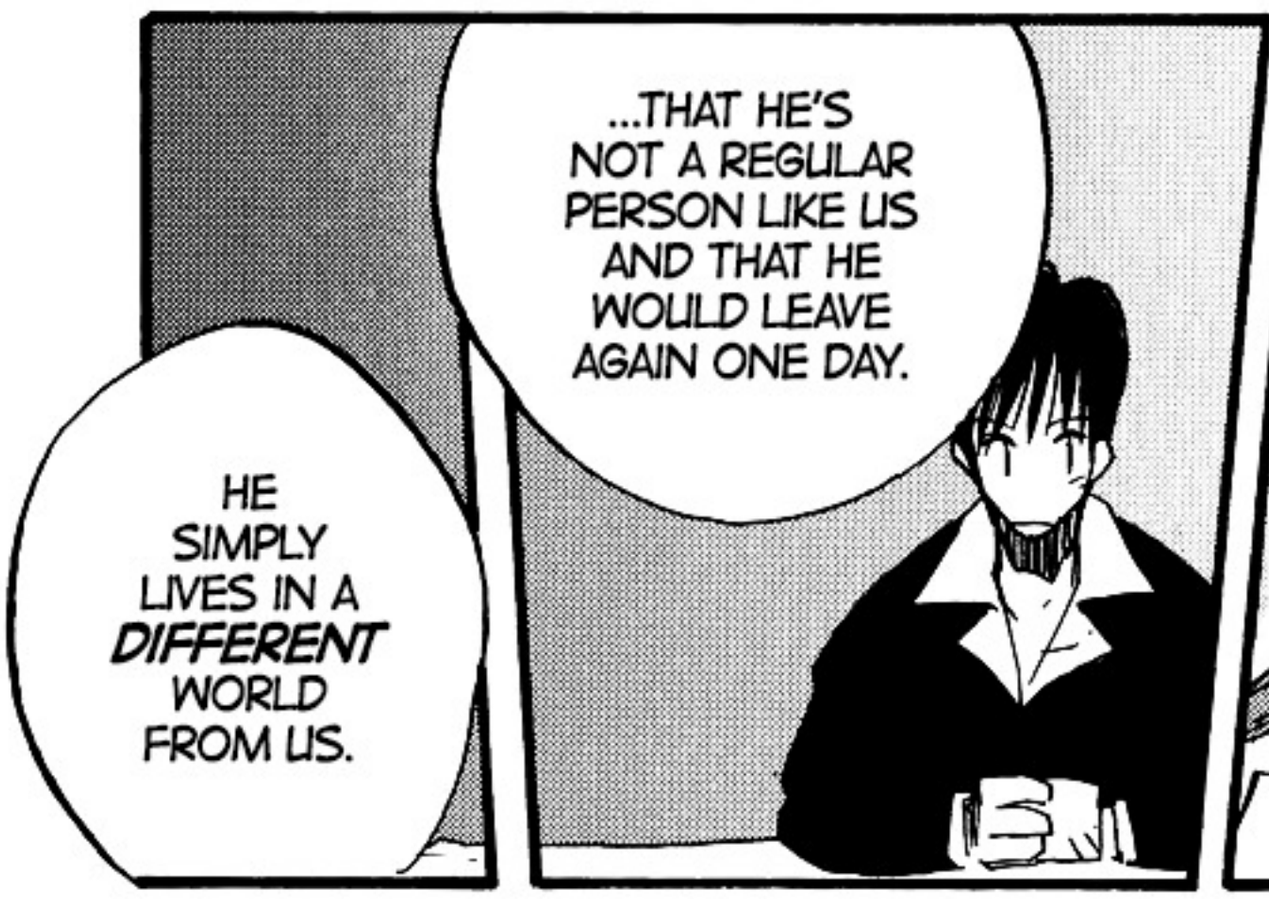
KNOT
툭
툭

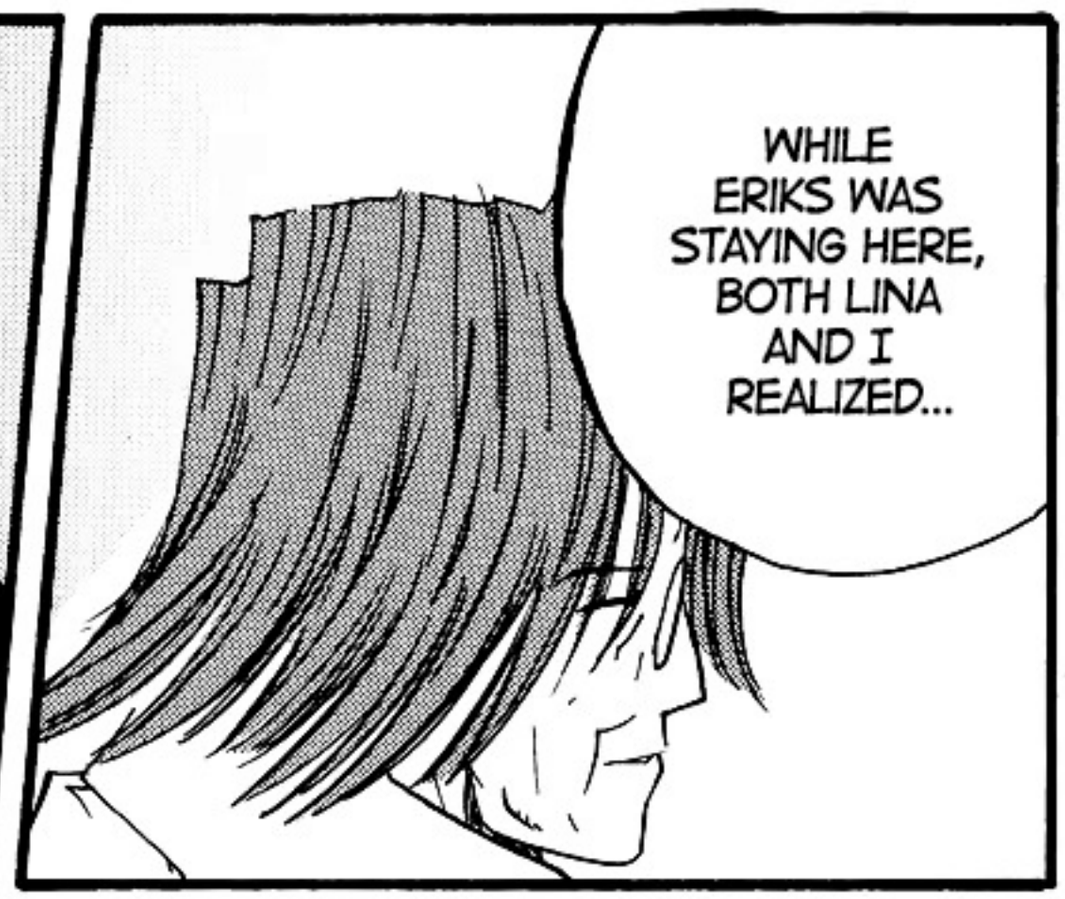


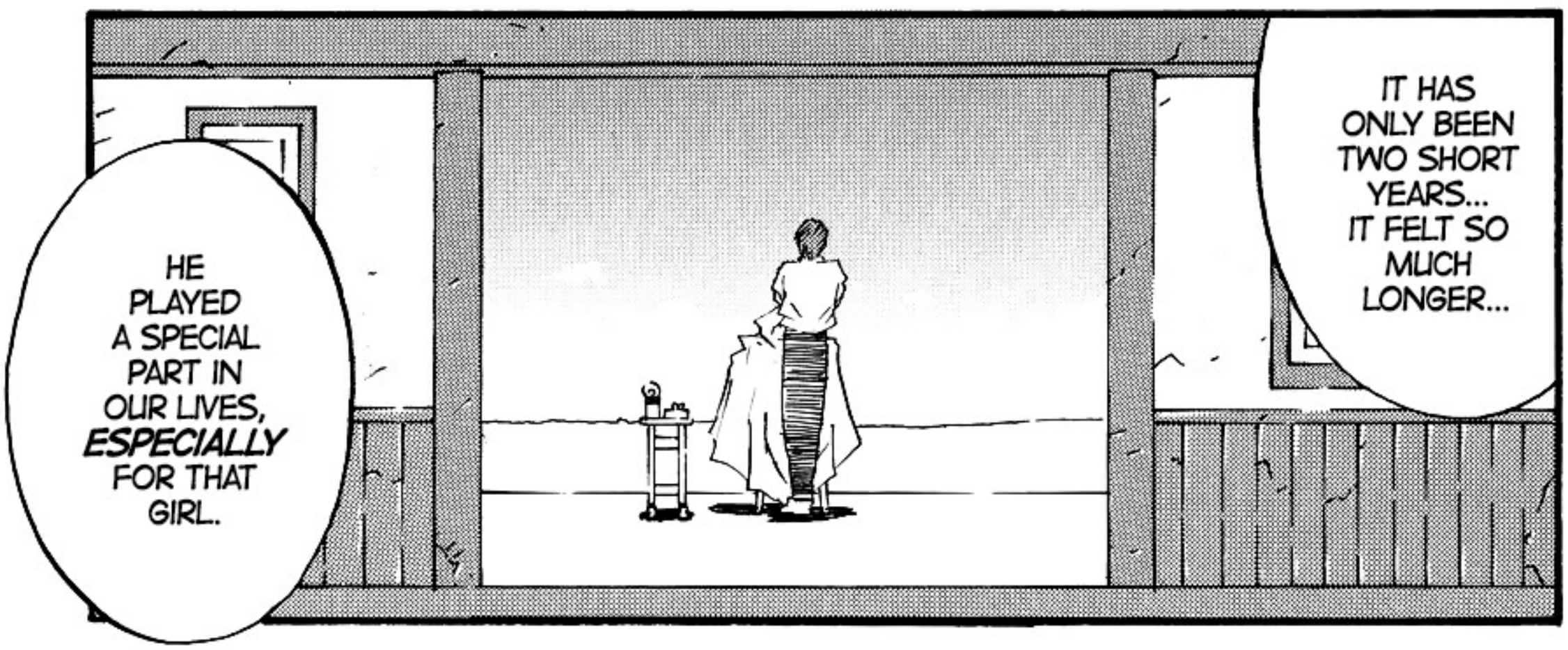

SNIP

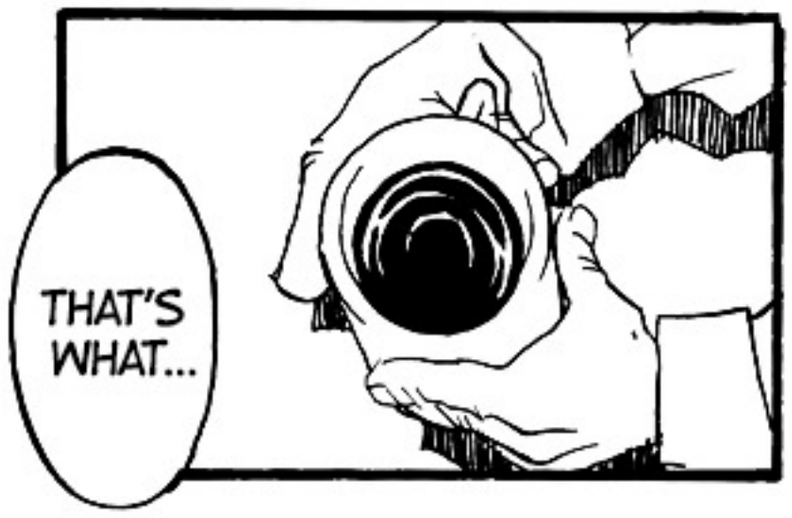

HE'S LIKE DUST IN THE WIND, ISN'T HE?
AND *NOW* HE WANTS A HAIRCUT.

YOU KNOW...
...
...


HE SIMPLY LIVES IN A *DIFFERENT* WORLD FROM US.
...THAT HE'S NOT A REGULAR PERSON LIKE US AND THAT HE WOULD LEAVE AGAIN ONE DAY.

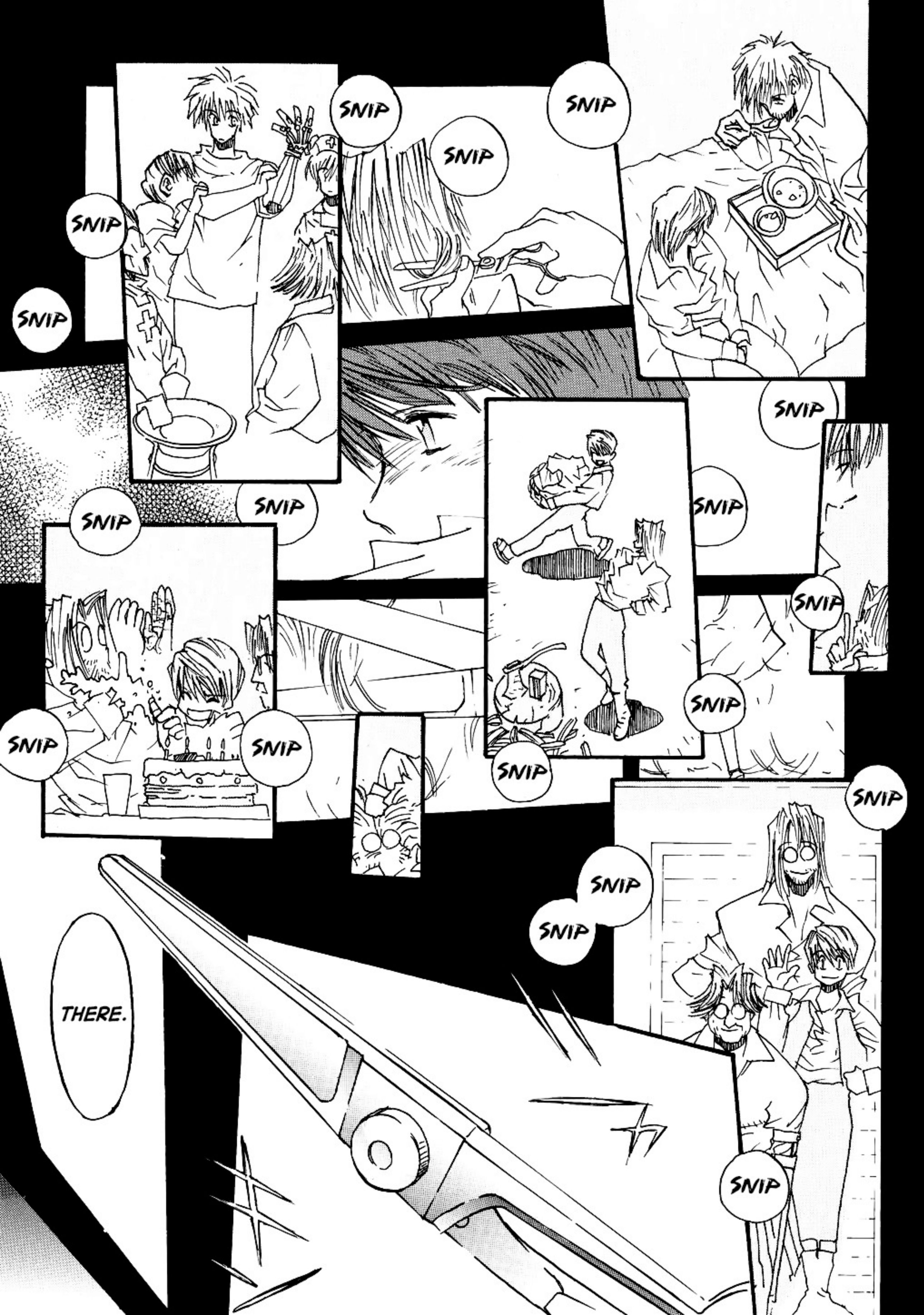

WHILE ERIKS WAS STAYING HERE, BOTH LINA AND I REALIZED...


HE PLAYED A SPECIAL PART IN OUR LIVES, *ESPECIALLY* FOR THAT GIRL.
IT HAS ONLY BEEN TWO SHORT YEARS... IT FELT SO MUCH LONGER...



I'M *TRULY* SORRY, MA'AM...

SNIP SNIP SNIP SNIP SNIP


SNIP
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SNIP
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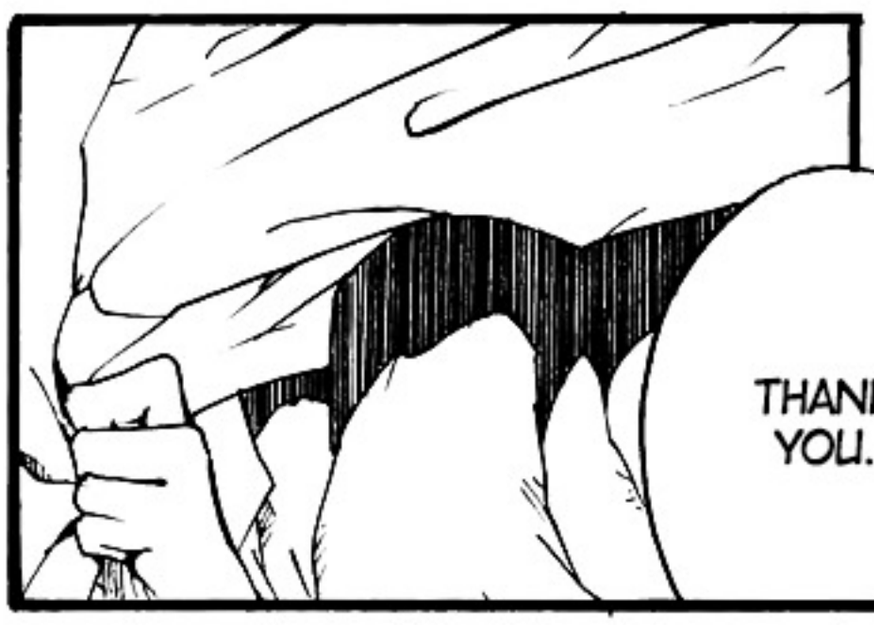
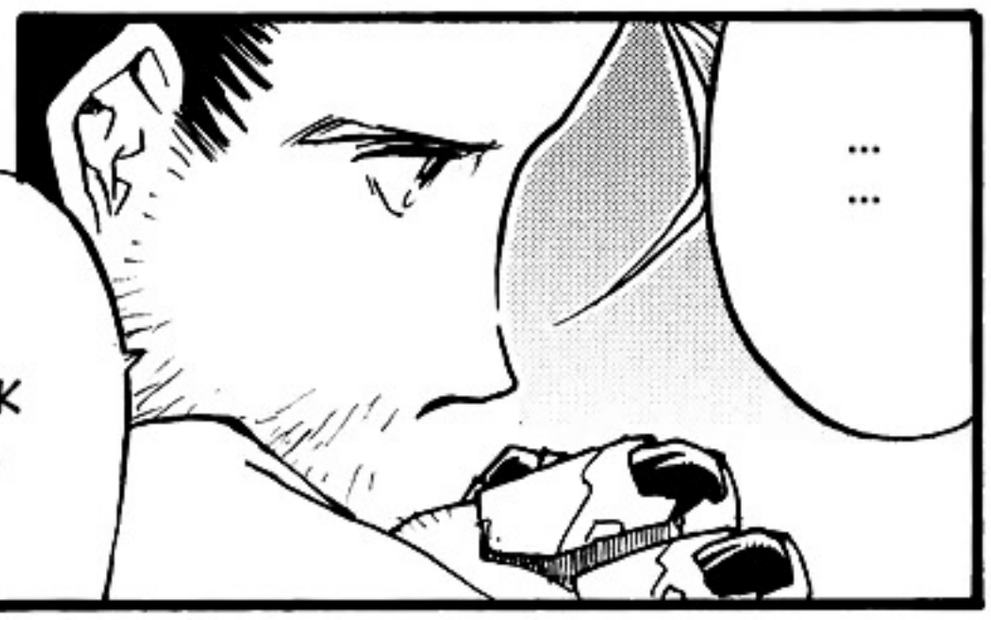
SNIP
SNIP
THERE.

ばさっ
ALL DONE.
ばっ
ドサ

LINA...

...
...


THANK YOU.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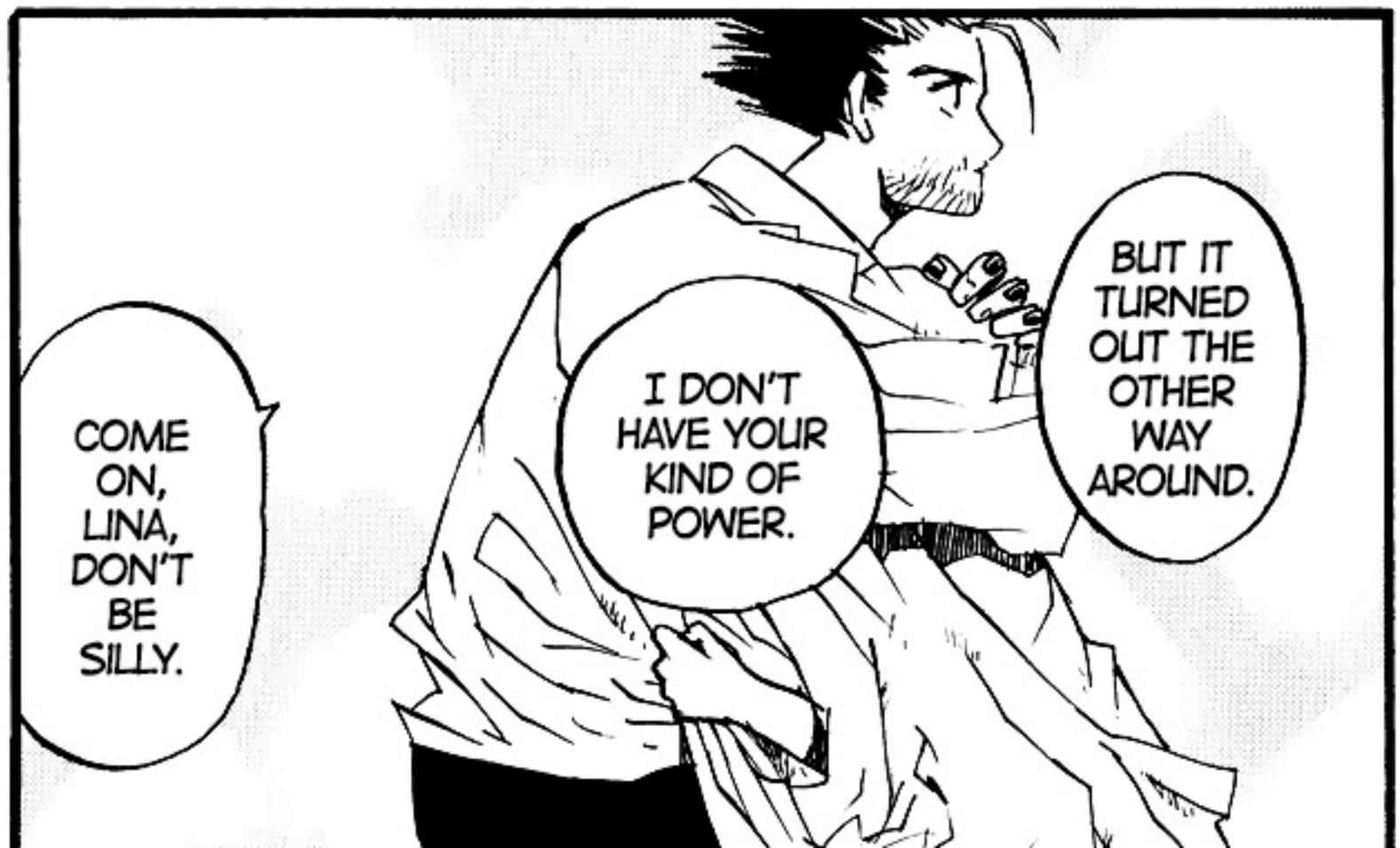

COME ON, LINA, DON'T BE SILLY.
I DON'T HAVE YOUR KIND OF POWER.
BUT IT TURNED OUT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

...
...
I JUST WANTED TO KEEP YOU SAFE...

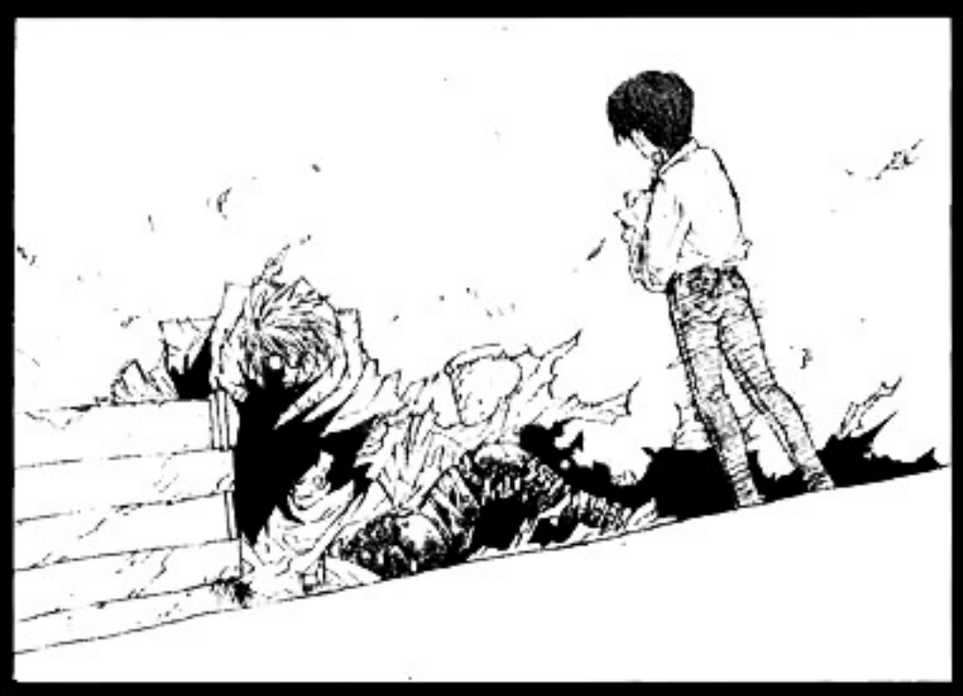
IN MY WEAKEST MOMENT, IT WAS ***YOU*** WHO PROTECTED ***ME.***

BUT YOU, LINA...

I ONLY PROTECTED YOU FOR A MOMENT.

THE FACT THAT I'M BACK ON MY FEET AGAIN.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE TWO OF YOU.



THANK YOU...

AND FAREWELL, FOR NOW.

#02. LINA / END

#03. BRAVO, GIRLS!

STAR DATE:
OCTOBER, 0110.

JUNEORA ROCK:
4:07PM.

THE MOON...!

HAPPY BIRTH-DAY TO YOU...
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY TO YOU...
HAPPY BIRTH DAAAAY...
THE SECOND CITY, DECEMBER.
STAR DATE: FEBRUARY, 0113

HAPPY BIRTH-DAY...

TO...

...YOU!

...DEAR MERYL...

HAPPY 23RD BIRTH-DAY!

HUH?

SHE'S ONLY 23?!

SO, THAT MEANS BACK THEN...

AHA...

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

AH

AAH

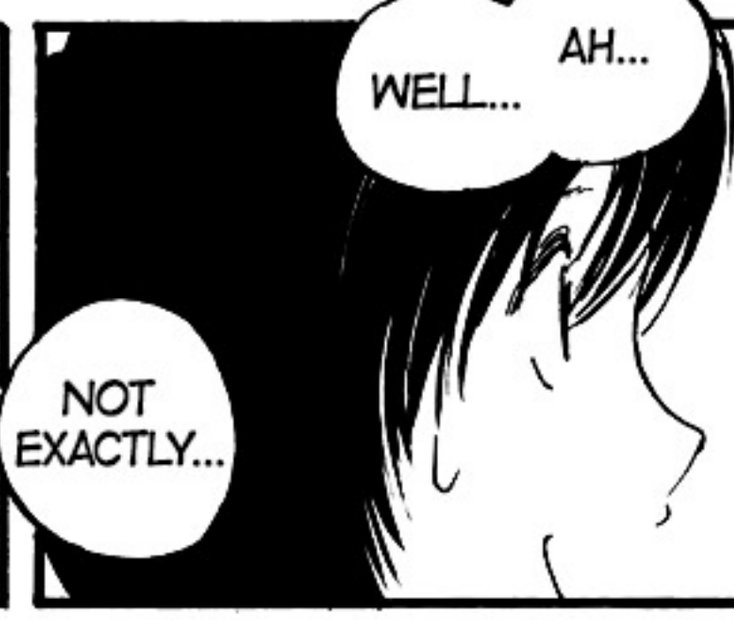
MARK!

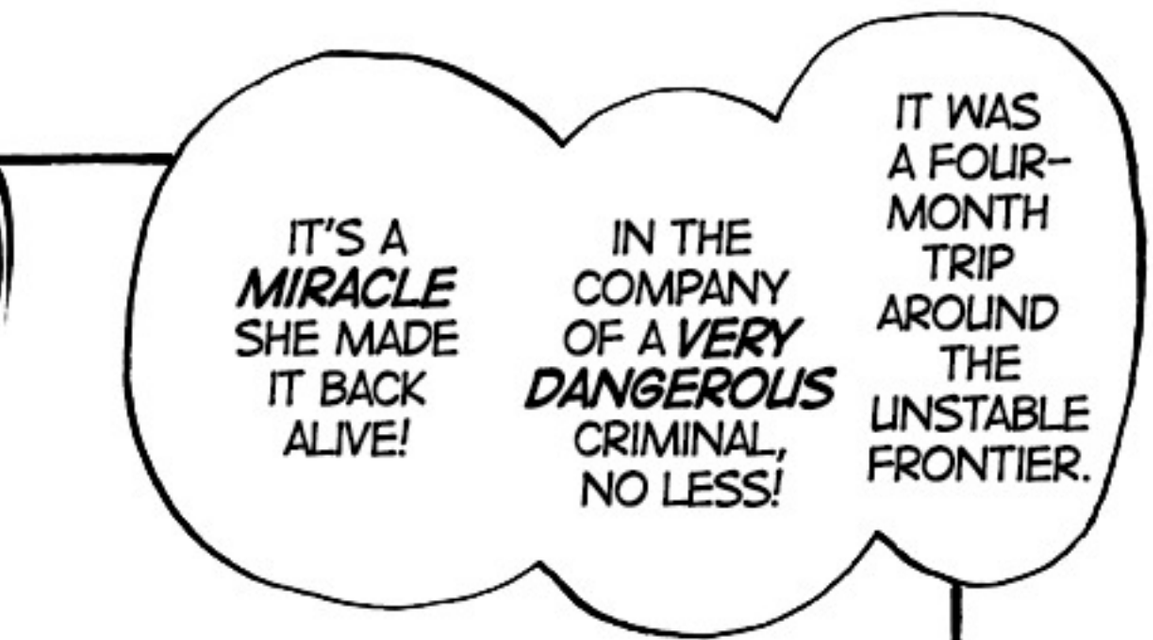
QUIT BUGGING HER ABOUT IT LIKE IT'S SOME KIND OF VACATION STORY!

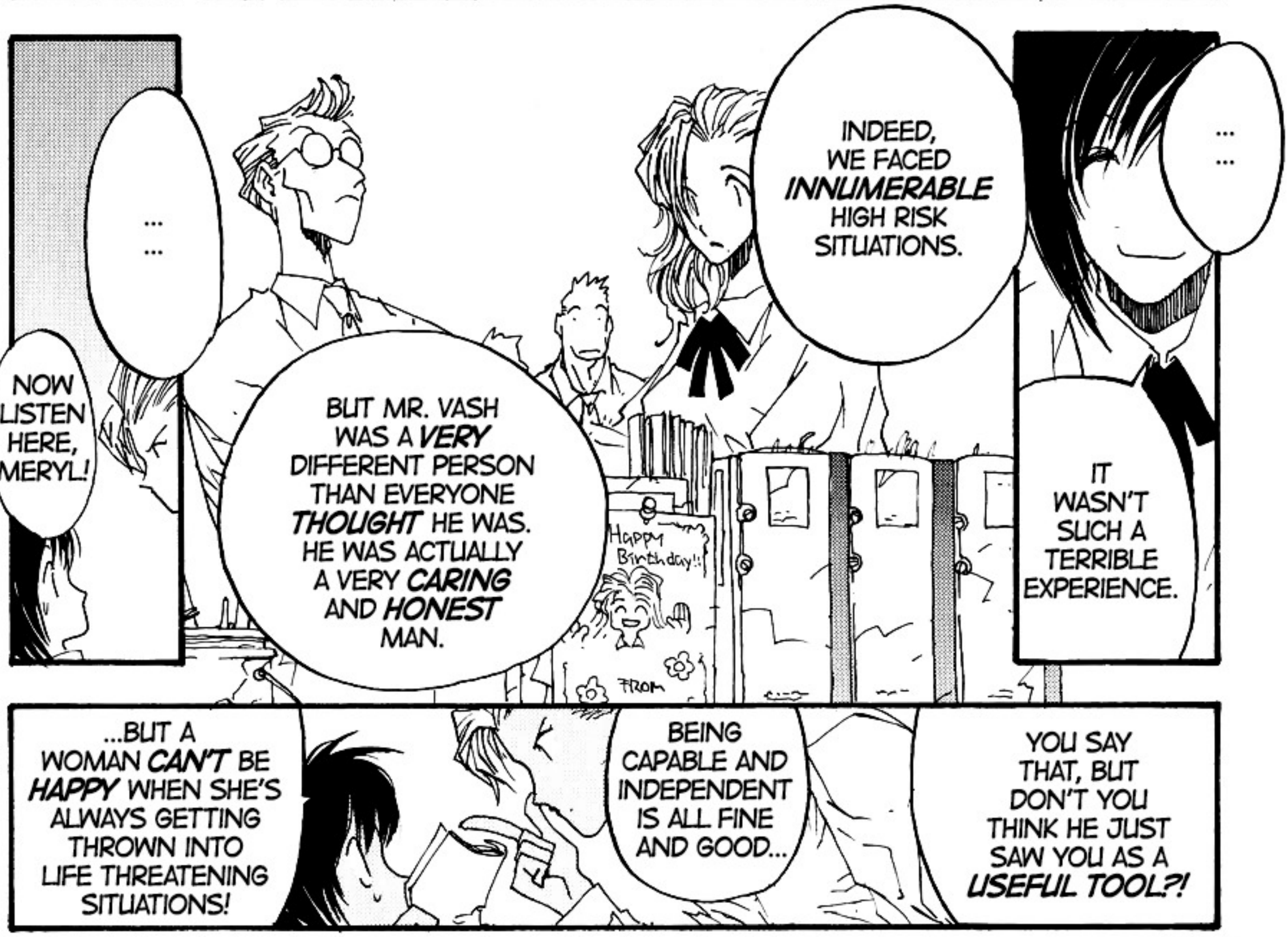
TELL ME, HOW DID IT FEEL TO WITNESS THE FIFTH MOON INCIDENT *UP CLOSE?* WHEN HE BLEW THAT CRATER-

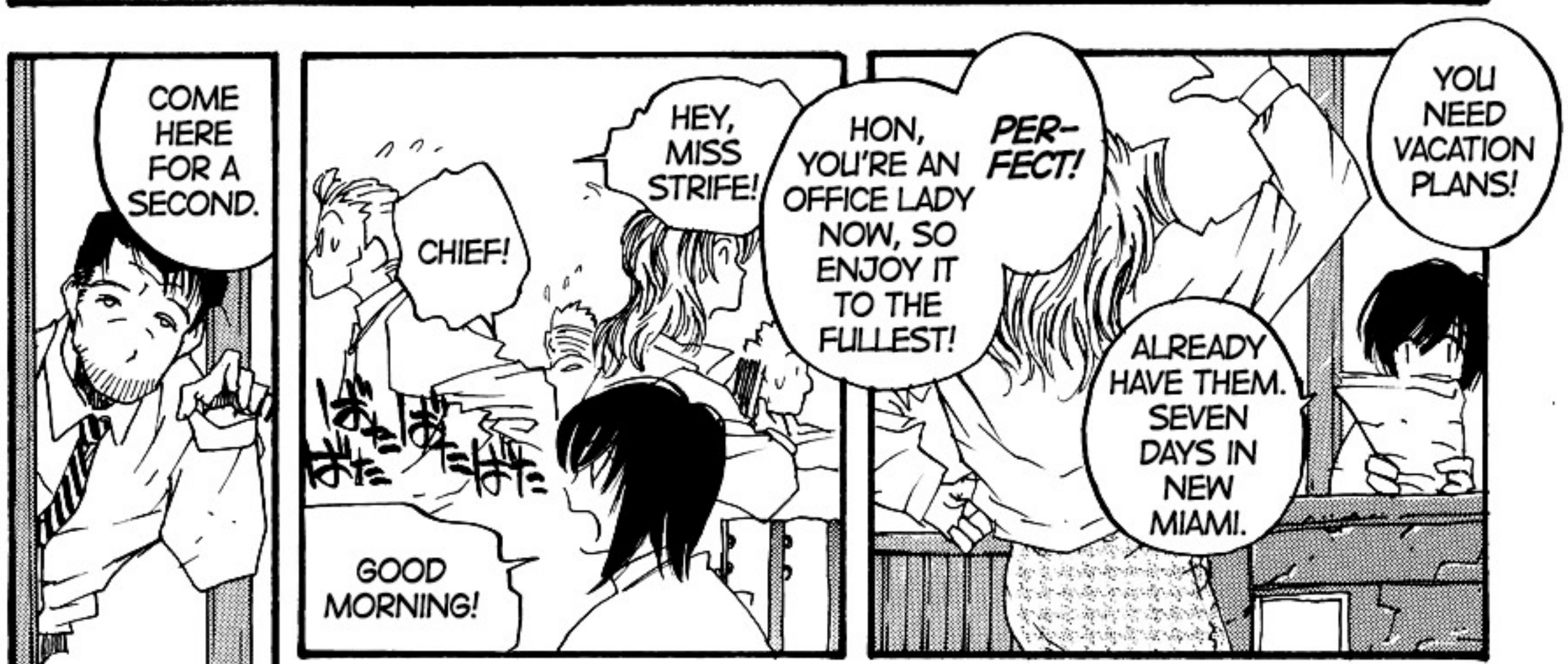
...SHE WAS ONLY 21!

WOW! THAT'S A LOT OF EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR AGE.

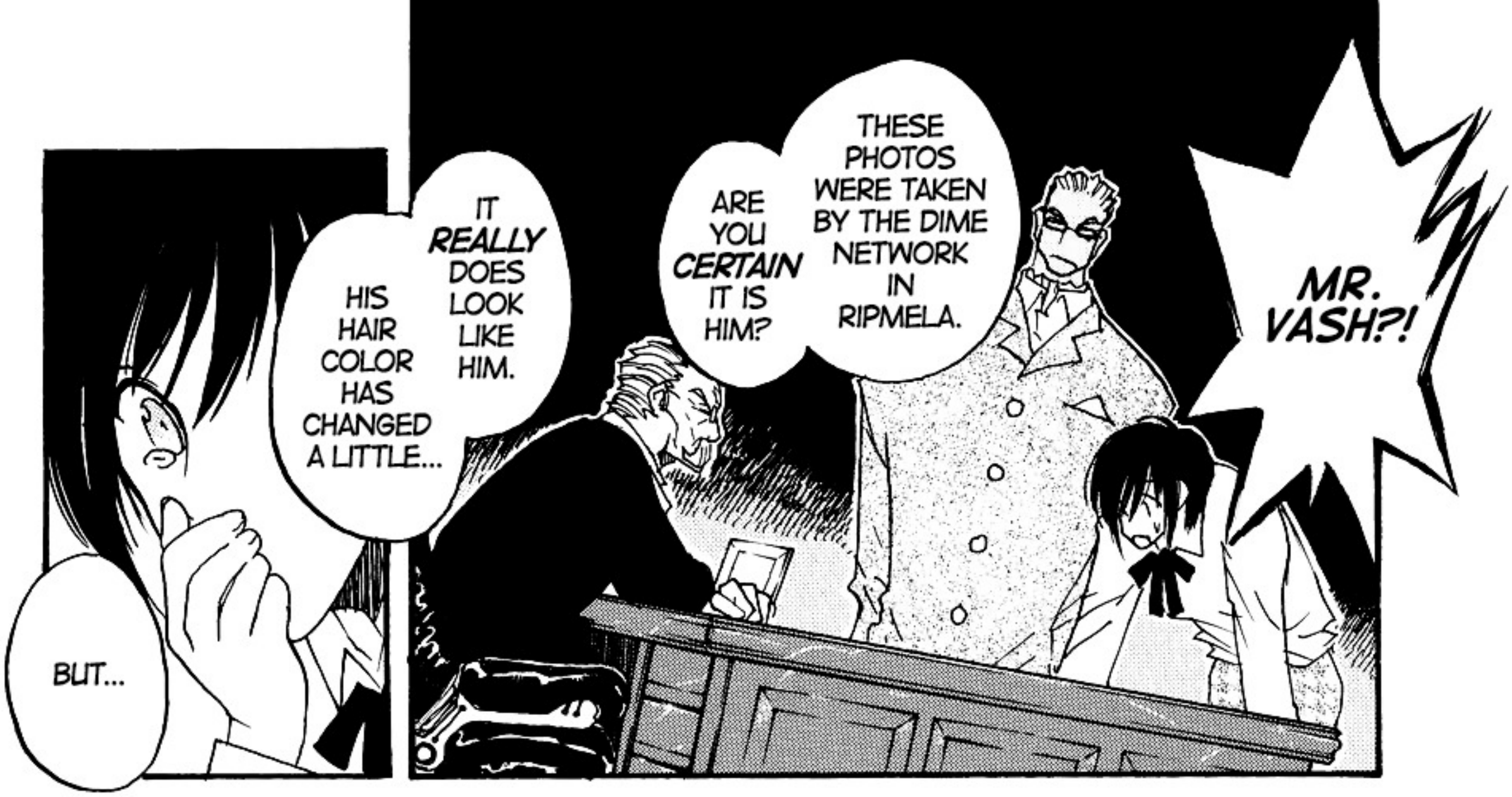

WELL...
AH...
NOT EXACTLY...


IT'S A MIRACLE SHE MADE IT BACK ALIVE!
IN THE COMPANY OF A VERY DANGEROUS CRIMINAL, NO LESS!
IT WAS A FOUR-MONTH TRIP AROUND THE UNSTABLE FRONTIER.

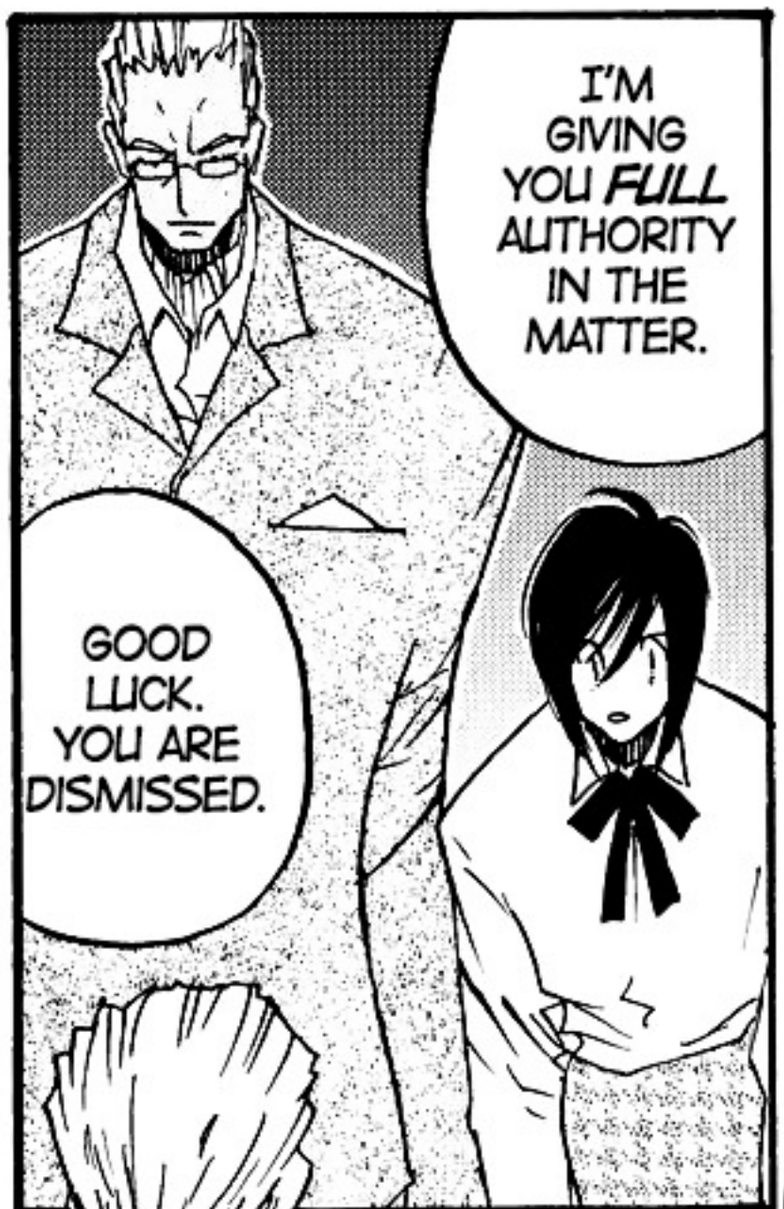

... ...
NOW LISTEN HERE, MERYL!
BUT MR. VASH WAS A VERY DIFFERENT PERSON THAN EVERYONE THOUGHT HE WAS. HE WAS ACTUALLY A VERY CARING AND HONEST MAN.
INDEED, WE FACED INNUMERABLE HIGH RISK SITUATIONS.
... ...
IT WASN'T SUCH A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE.
Happy Birthday!!
FROM
...BUT A WOMAN CAN'T BE HAPPY WHEN SHE'S ALWAYS GETTING THROWN INTO LIFE THREATENING SITUATIONS!
BEING CAPABLE AND INDEPENDENT IS ALL FINE AND GOOD...
YOU SAY THAT, BUT DON'T YOU THINK HE JUST SAW YOU AS A USEFUL TOOL?!


COME HERE FOR A SECOND.
CHIEF!
HEY, MISS STRIFE!
GOOD MORNING!
HON, YOU'RE AN OFFICE LADY NOW, SO ENJOY IT TO THE FULLEST!
PER-FECT!
YOU NEED VACATION PLANS!
ALREADY HAVE THEM. SEVEN DAYS IN NEW MIAMI.

I BEG YOUR PARDON.
UHM...
?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
...
I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN...
AH, GOOD.
...BUT I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU...
...TO TAKE A LOOK AT *THESE*.


BUT...
HIS HAIR COLOR HAS CHANGED A LITTLE...
IT REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE HIM.
ARE YOU CERTAIN IT IS HIM?
THESE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN BY THE DIME NETWORK IN RIPMELA.
MR. VASH?!

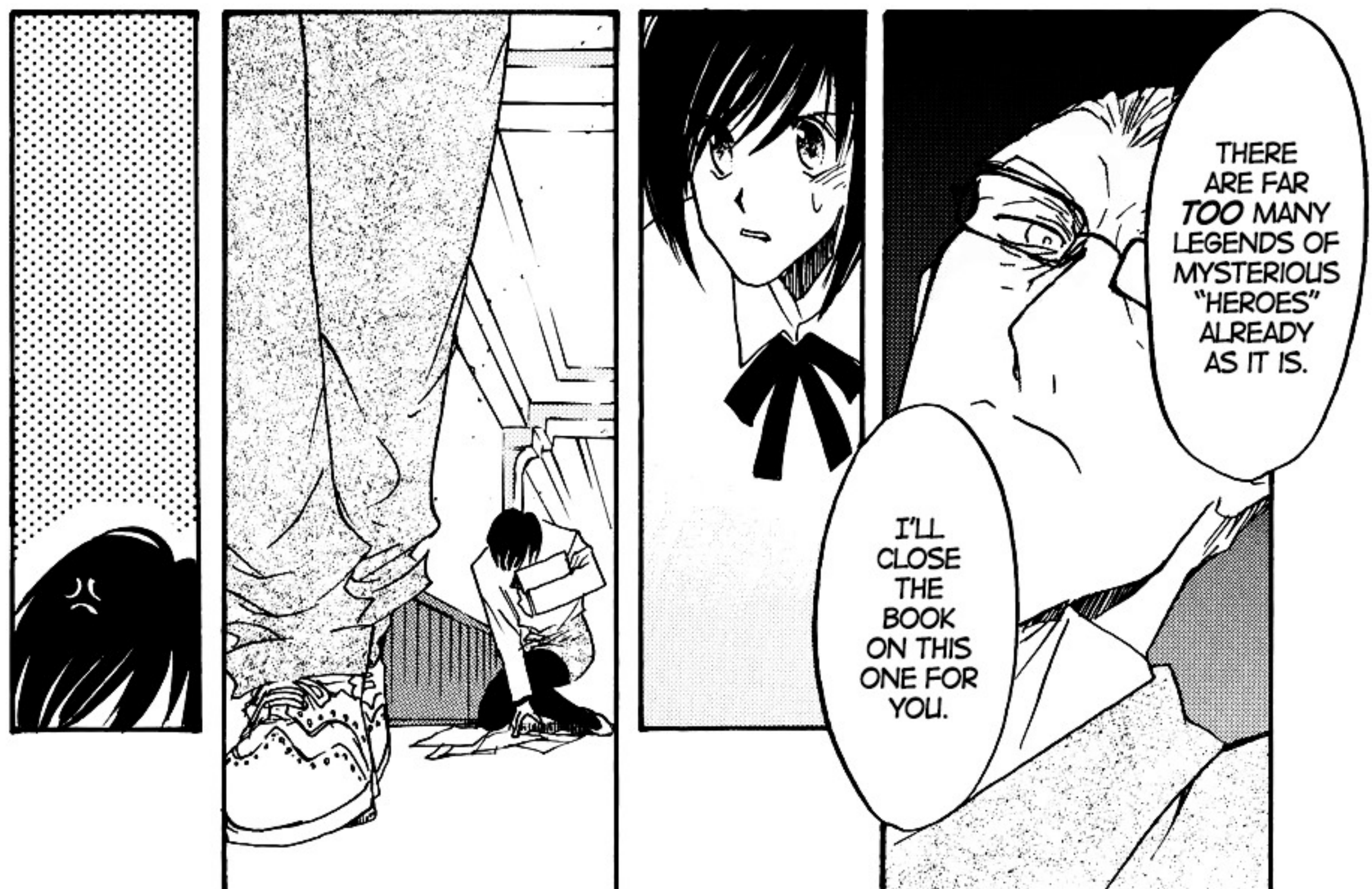
MR. KEELE, YOU MAY DEPART AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
VERY GOOD, I TRUST YOUR WORD.

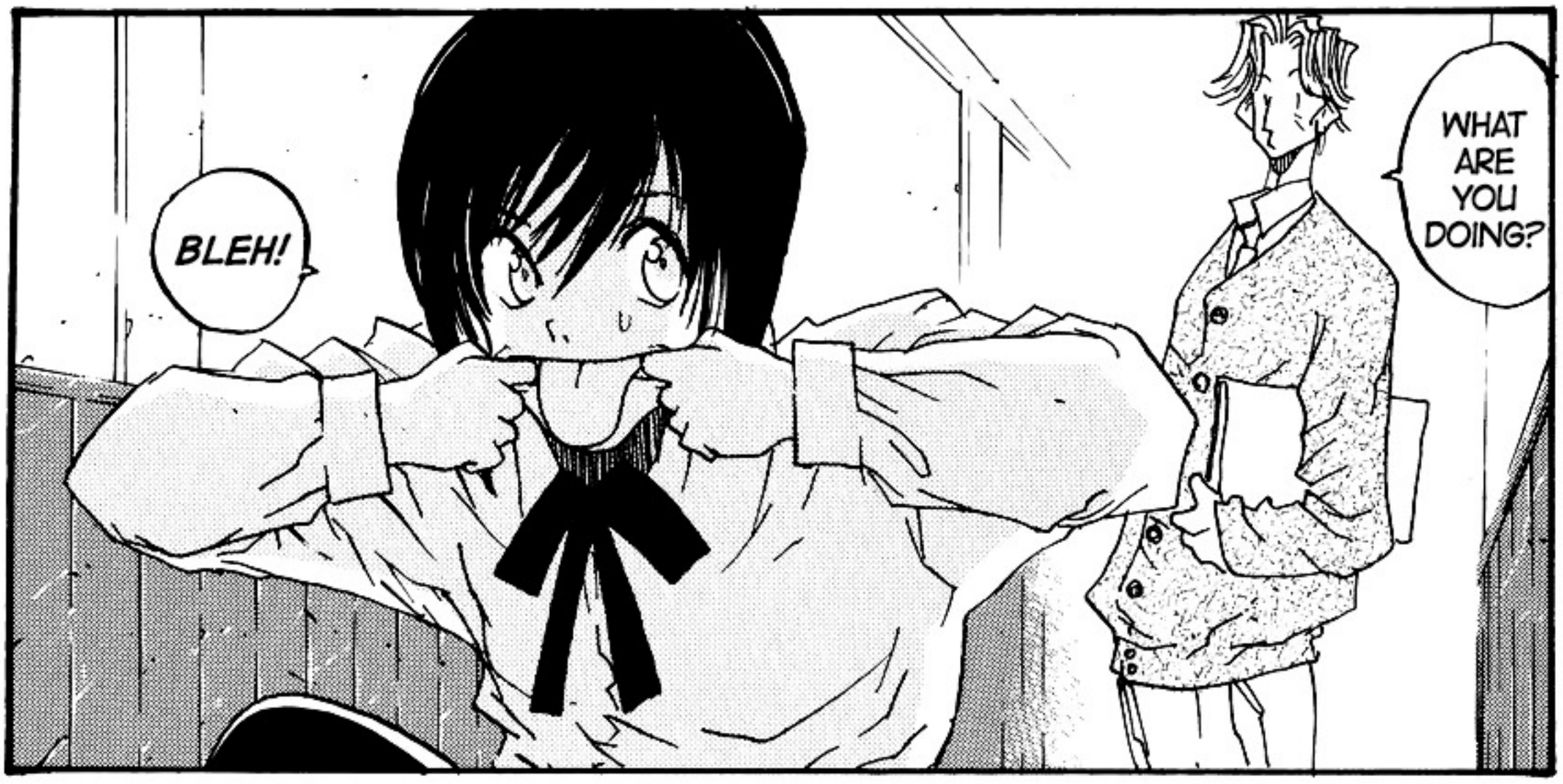

I'M GIVING YOU FULL AUTHORITY IN THE MATTER.
GOOD LUCK. YOU ARE DISMISSED.

UNDER-STOOD.
I WILL INTERCEPT THE SUBJECT IN MELDRECK.

MR. KEELE!
HERE.
THESE ARE ALL MY REPORTS ON VASH THE STAMPEDE.
AH!
PER-HAPS SOME-THING IN HERE CAN BE OF USE TO-

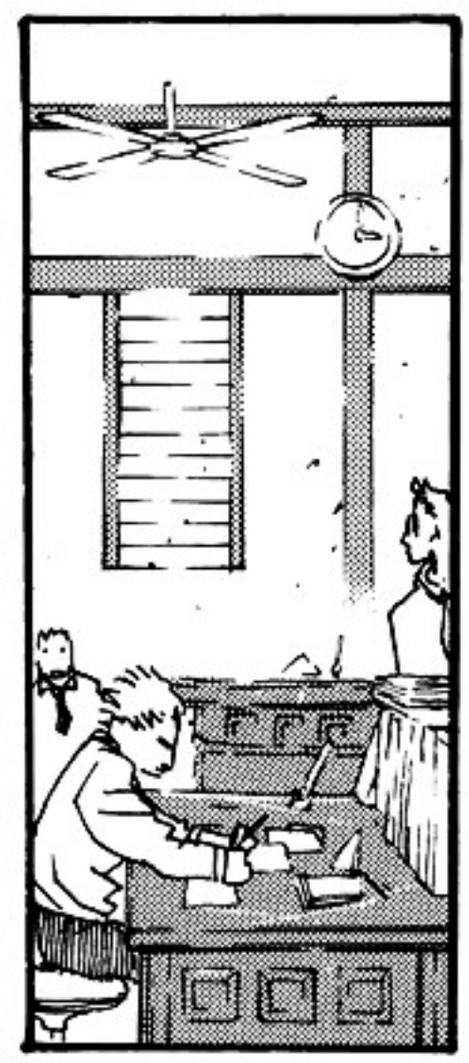
I'VE SKIMMED YOUR "REPORTS".
THEY'RE LUDICROUS! THEY BARELY EVEN QUALIFY AS TABLOIDS!
LEAST OF ALL AS ACCEPT-ABLE REFER-ENCE!


THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY LEGENDS OF MYSTERIOUS "HEROES" ALREADY AS IT IS.
I'LL CLOSE THE BOOK ON THIS ONE FOR YOU.

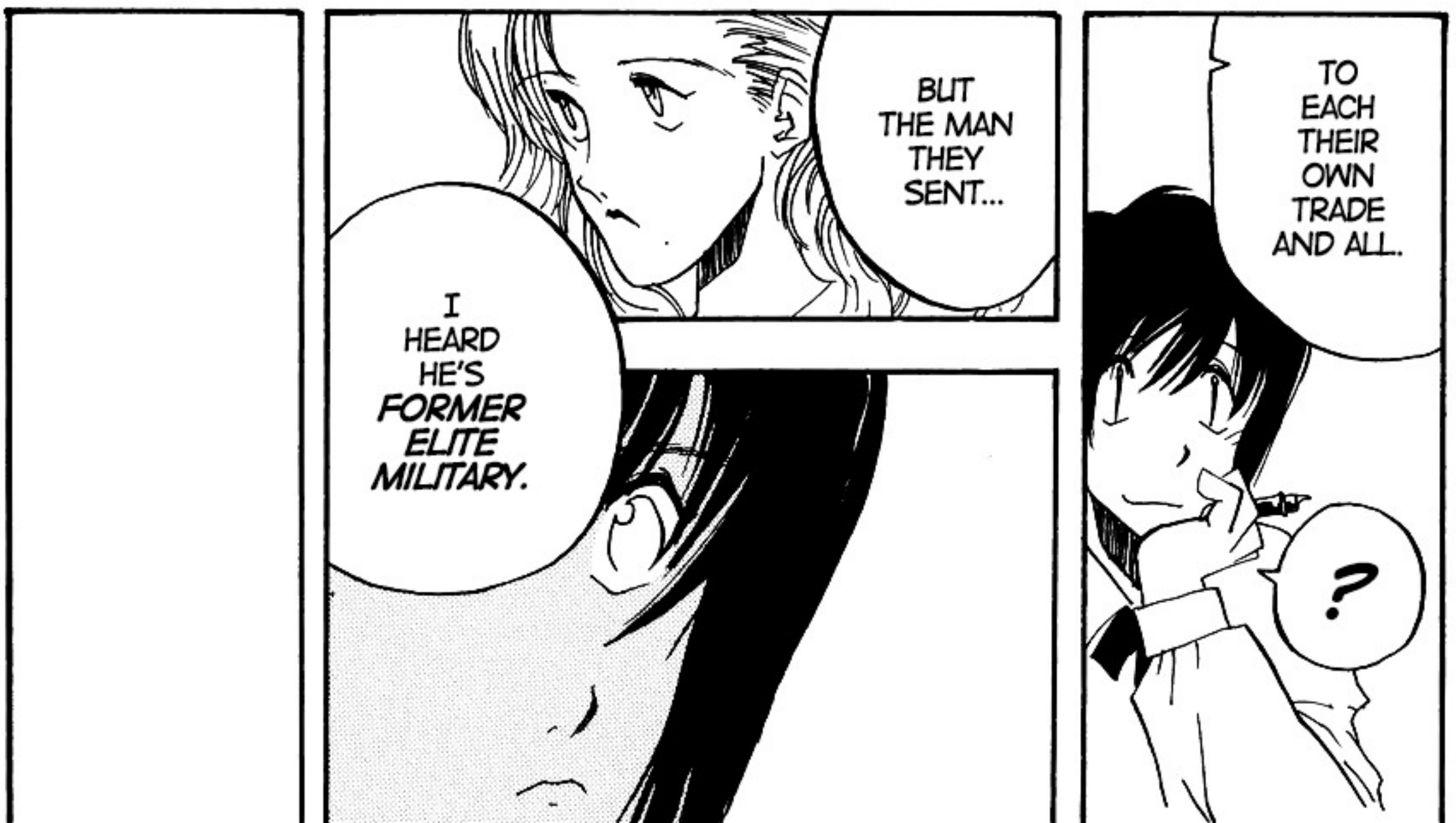

BLEH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU DISAP-POINTED?
A LITTLE. WHY?

I HEARD ABOUT IT.

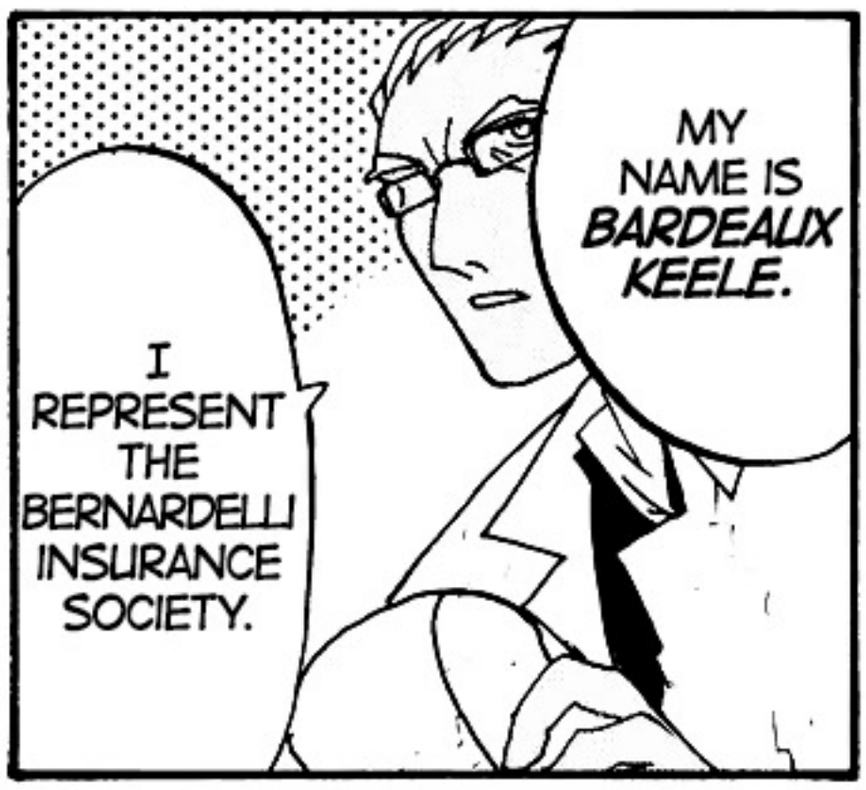


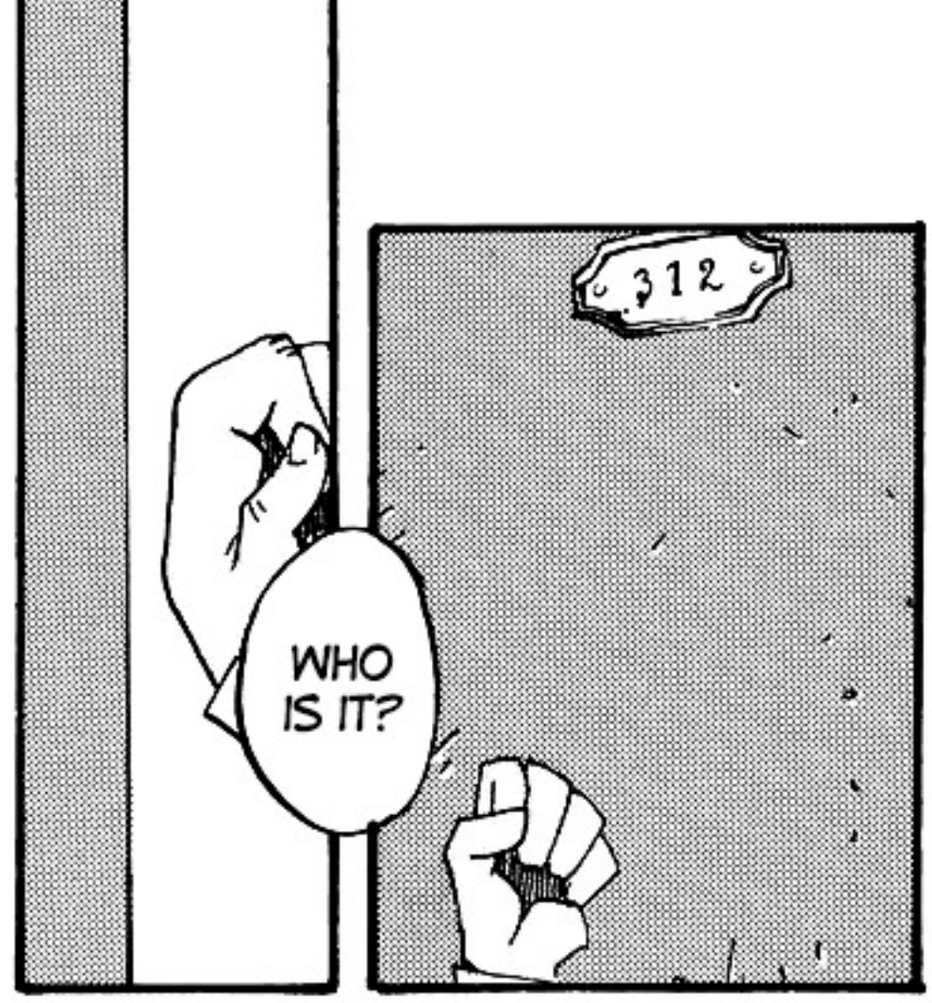
YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY BE GLAD TO STAY BEHIND THIS TIME.

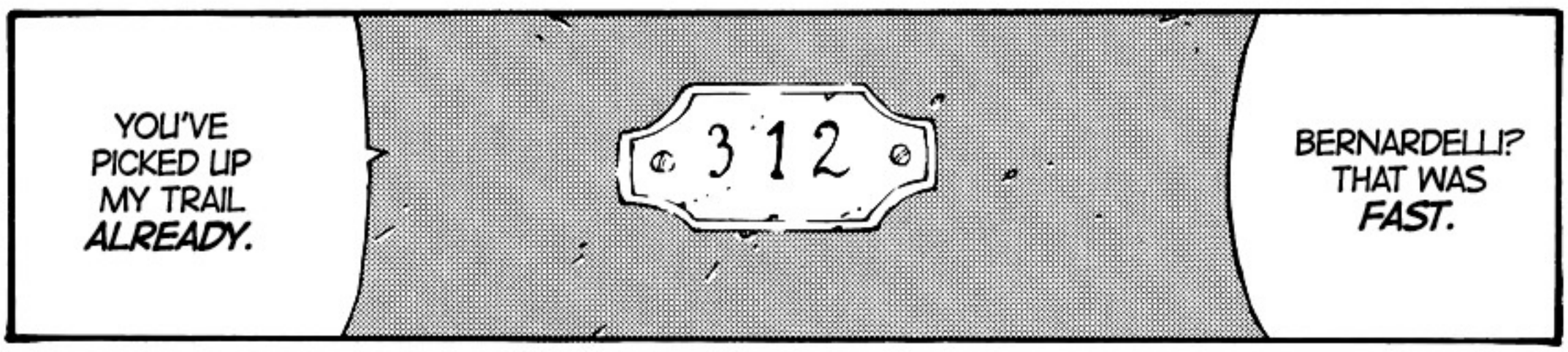

BUT THE MAN THEY SENT...
I HEARD HE'S FORMER ELITE MILITARY.
TO EACH THEIR OWN TRADE AND ALL.
?

SCREECH
STEP

HOTEL ANN

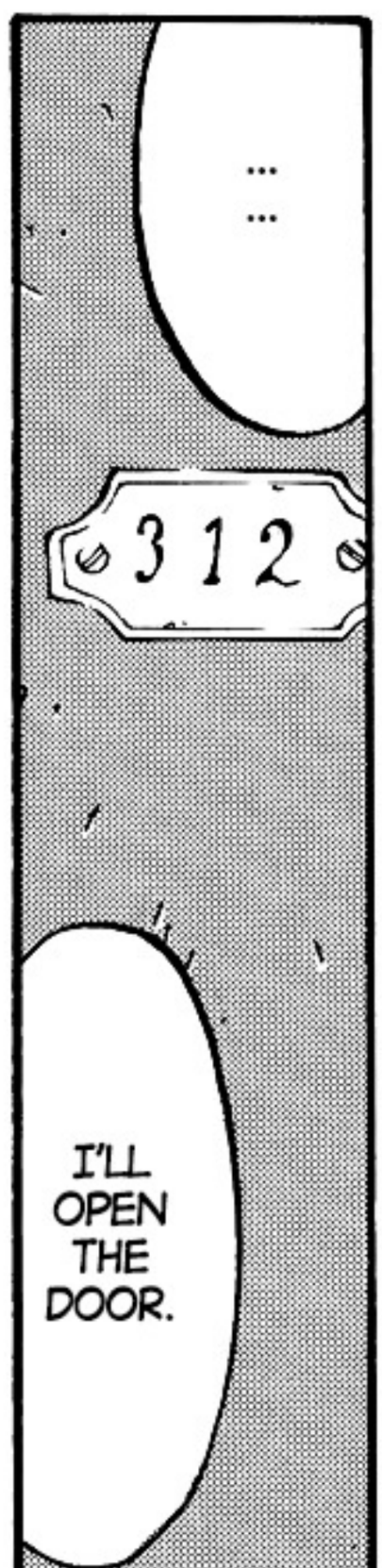

I REPRESENT THE BERNARDELLI INSURANCE SOCIETY.
MY NAME IS *BARDEALIX KEELE.*


WHO IS IT?
312


YOU'VE PICKED UP MY TRAIL *ALREADY.*
312
BERNARDELLI? THAT WAS *FAST.*

2

CLIK


...
...
312
I'LL OPEN THE DOOR.

...
...
312
DON'T YOU THINK WE'LL MAKE AN ODD COUPLE?

I ALSO BRING WORD FROM *MERYL STRIFE.*

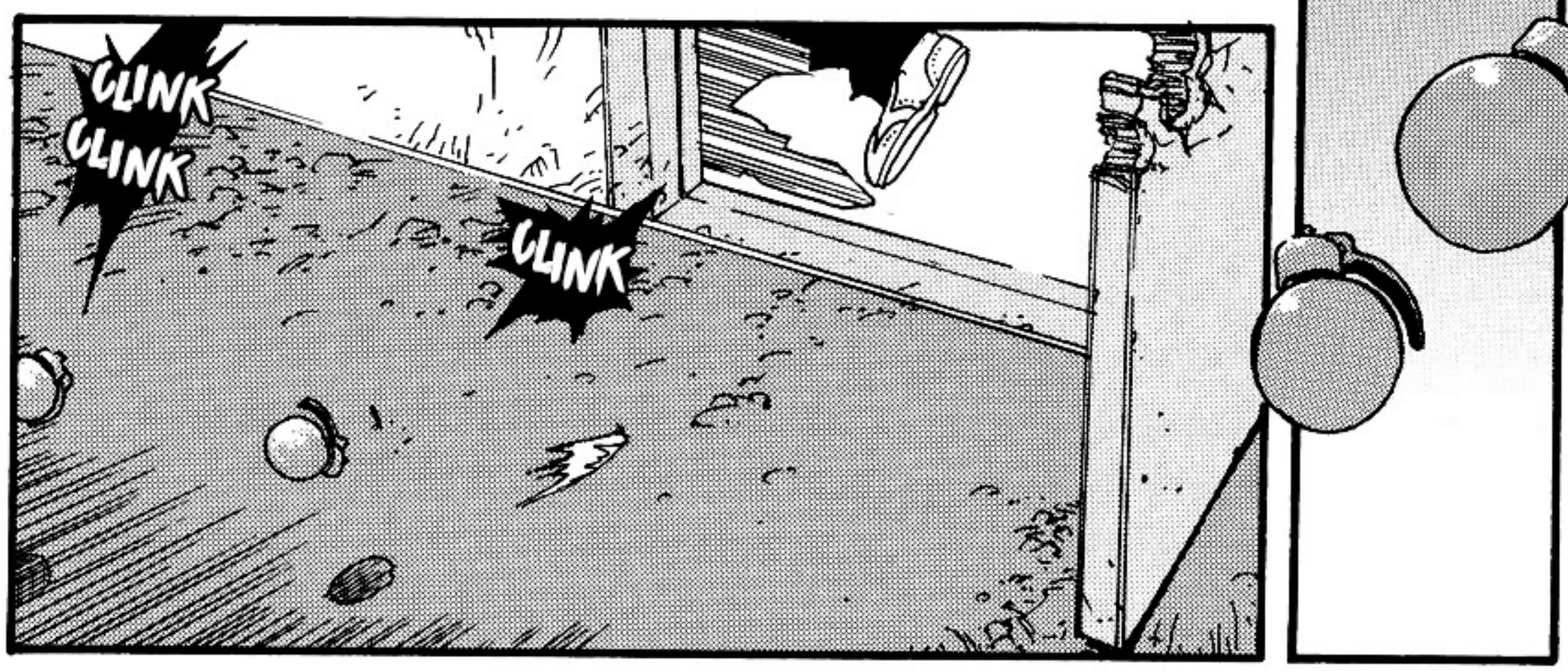
OF COURSE, THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE MYSELF.

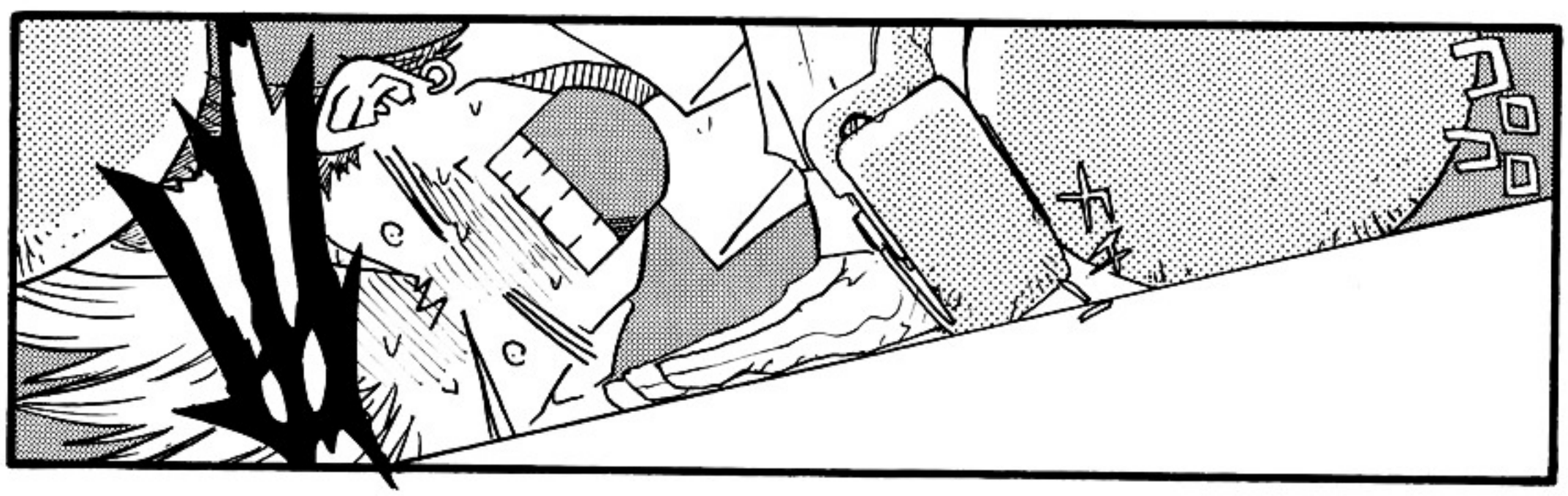
BAM!

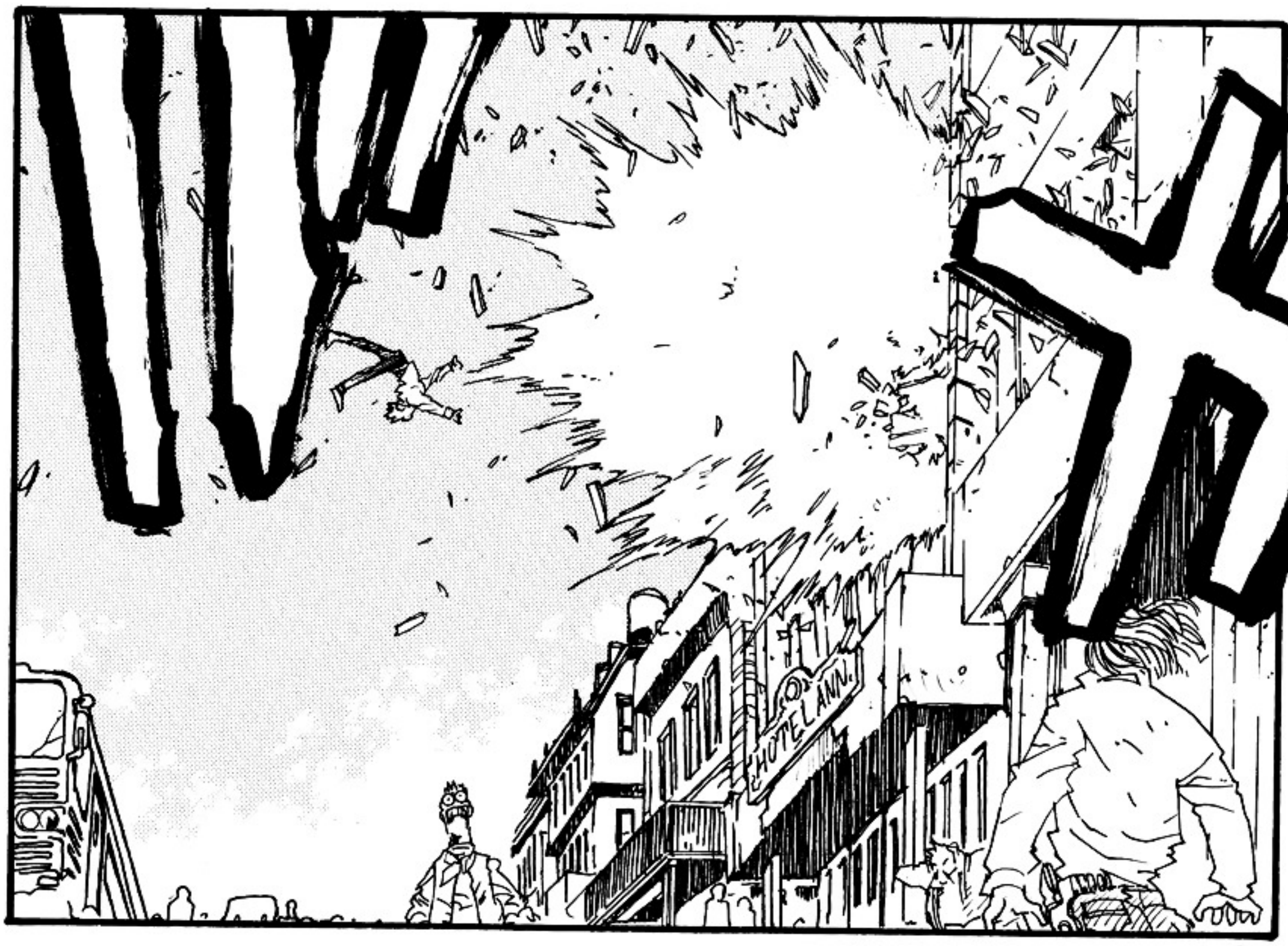
...
...
SO LOUD.
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED TO KNOCK MORE QUIETLY?

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
STAY BACK!
I SEE... THE RUMORS HAVE SOME TRUTH TO THEM.
ARE YOU REALLY AN INSURANCE AGENT?
YOU SEEM MORE LIKE A MILITARY MAN.

CLANK

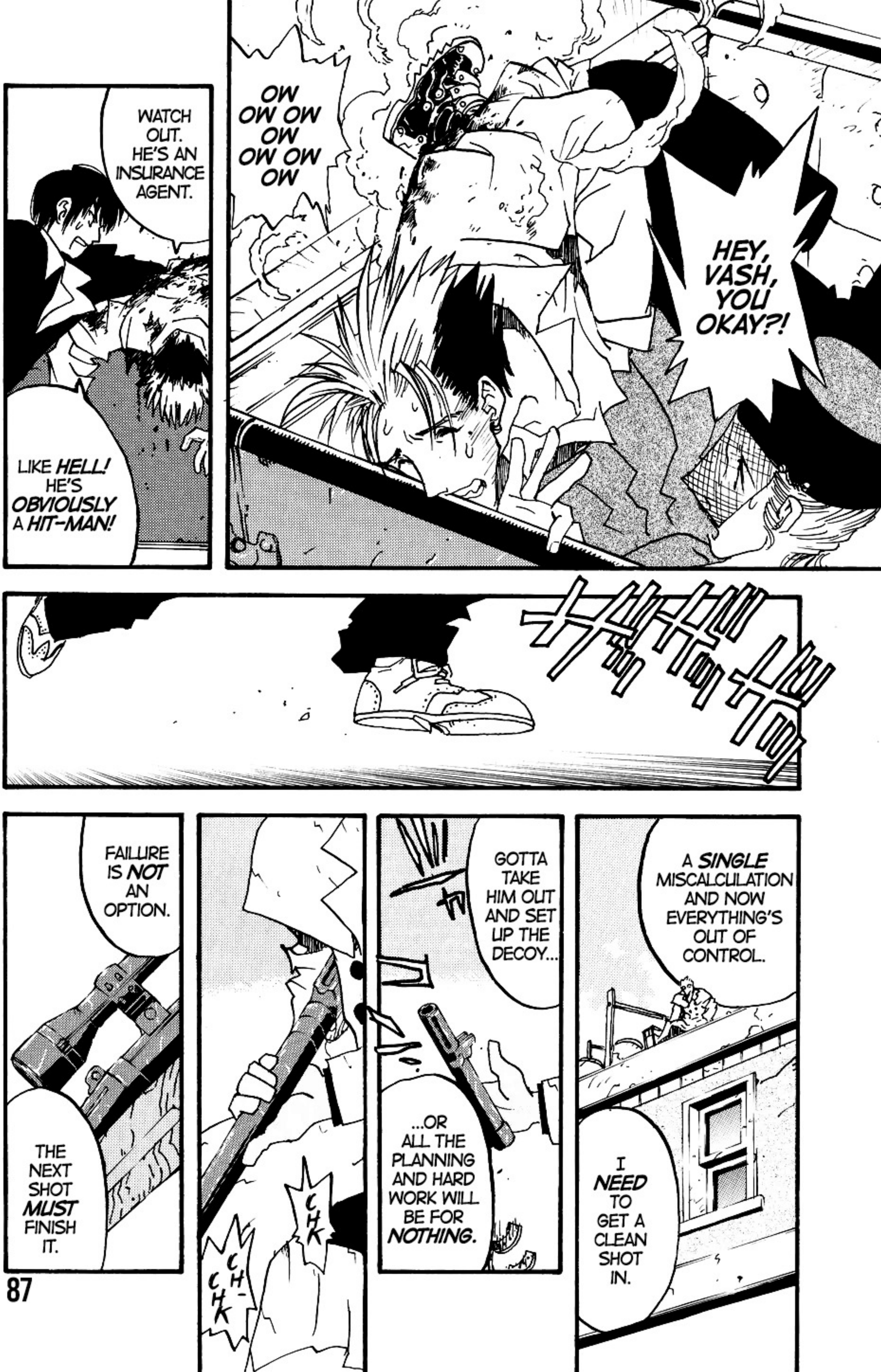

CLINK
CLINK
CLINK




HOTEL ANN

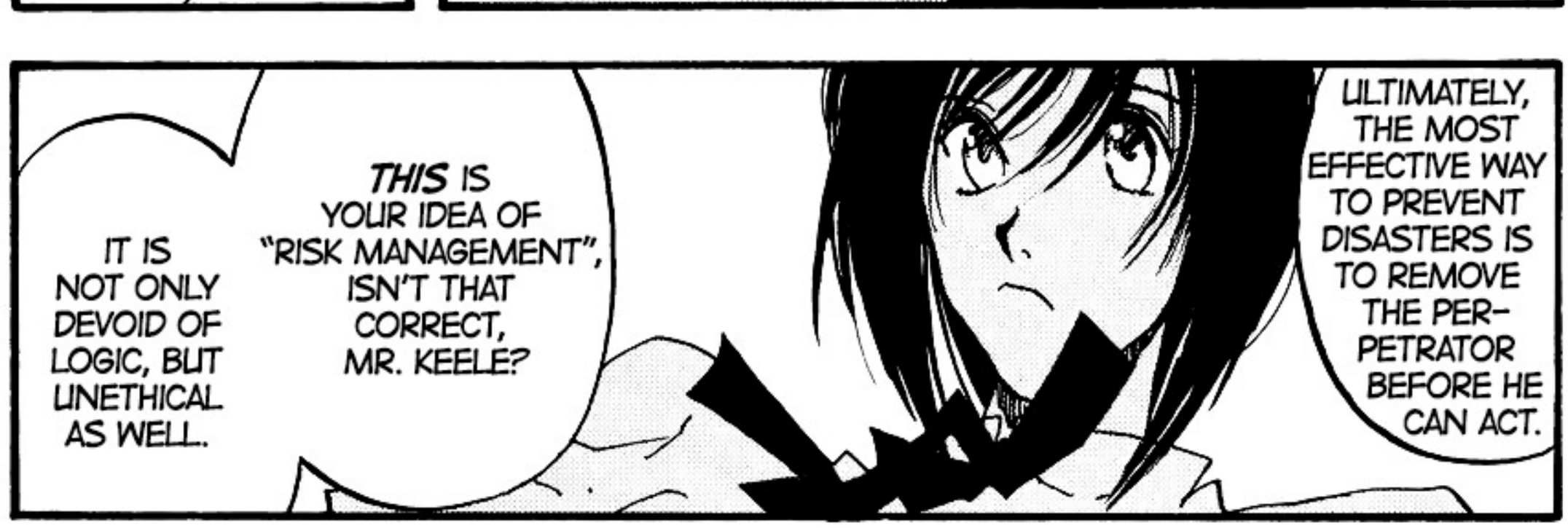
GAH!
NO! STOP IDIOT!
GAHA!
HAH!
?!
AAH!

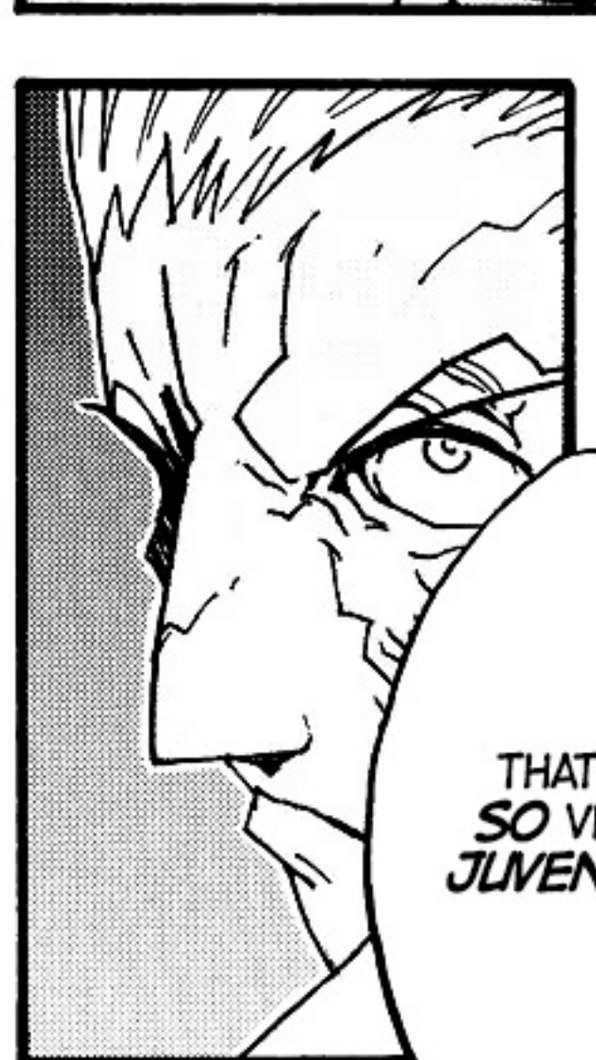
GAAAAAH!!
SHIT!
THE HELL YA *DOIN'* TO MY *PAL?!*
HEY, JACK-ASS!


WATCH OUT. HE'S AN INSURANCE AGENT.
LIKE HELL! HE'S OBVIOUSLY A HIT-MAN!
OW OW OW OW OW OW OW
HEY, VASH, YOU OKAY?!
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION.
THE NEXT SHOT MUST FINISH IT.
CHK
CH-CHK
GOTTA TAKE HIM OUT AND SET UP THE DECOY...
...OR ALL THE PLANNING AND HARD WORK WILL BE FOR NOTHING.
A SINGLE MISCALCULATION AND NOW EVERYTHING'S OUT OF CONTROL.
I NEED TO GET A CLEAN SHOT IN.

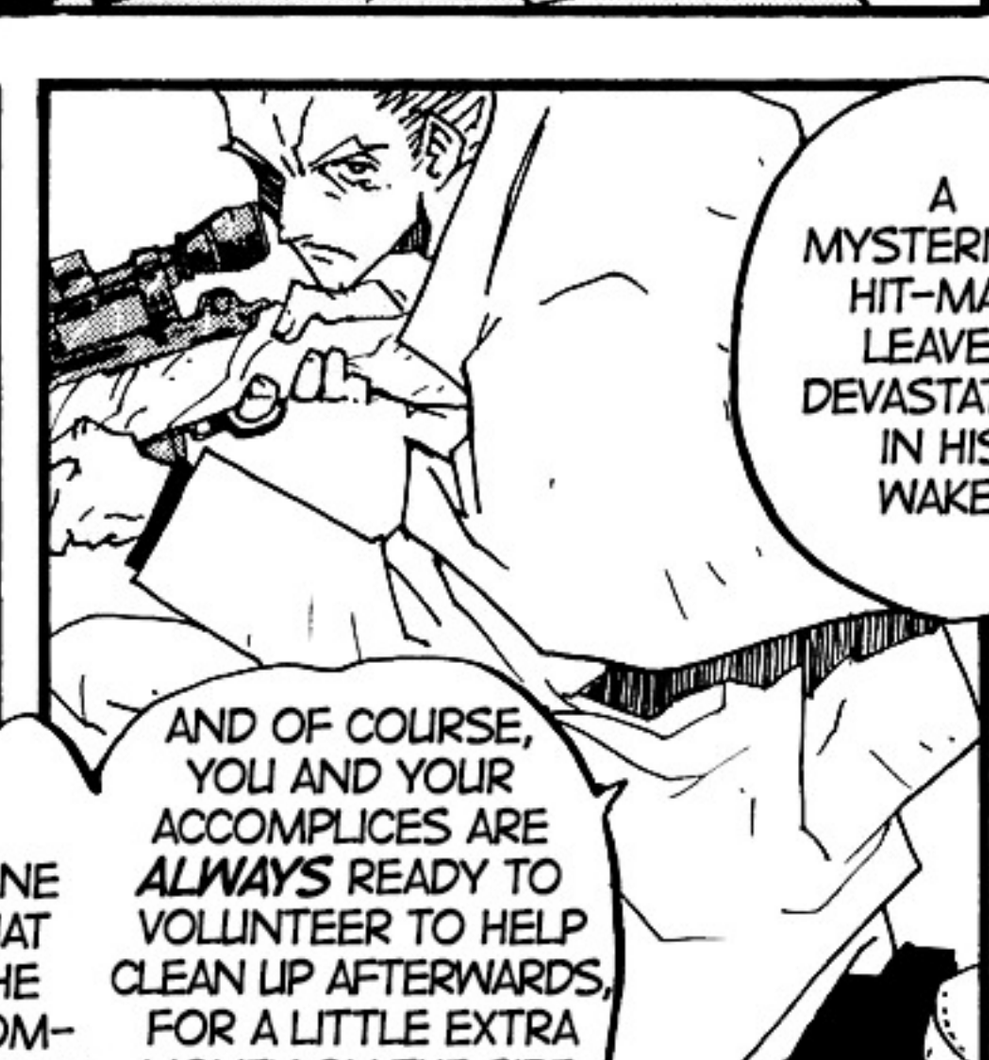
...
...
YOU!

SO, THAT'S HOW IT IS.


IT IS NOT ONLY DEVOID OF LOGIC, BUT UNETHICAL AS WELL.
THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF "RISK MANAGEMENT", ISN'T THAT CORRECT, MR. KEELE?
ULTIMATELY, THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT DISASTERS IS TO REMOVE THE PER-PETRATOR BEFORE HE CAN ACT.


THAT IS SO VERY JUVENILE.

...
...

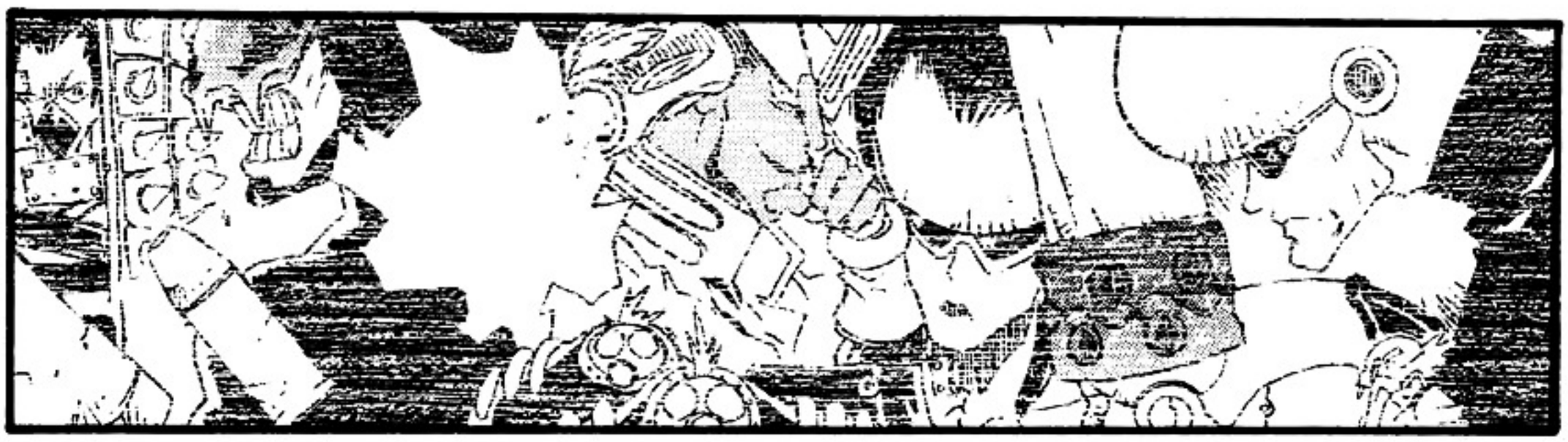

A MYSTERIOUS HIT-MAN LEAVES DEVASTATION IN HIS WAKE...
AND OF COURSE, YOU AND YOUR ACCOMPLICES ARE ALWAYS READY TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP CLEAN UP AFTERWARDS, FOR A LITTLE EXTRA MONEY ON THE SIDE. A COMPLEX FRAUD, INDEED.
ONE THAT THE COM-PANY IS BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING ABOUT.

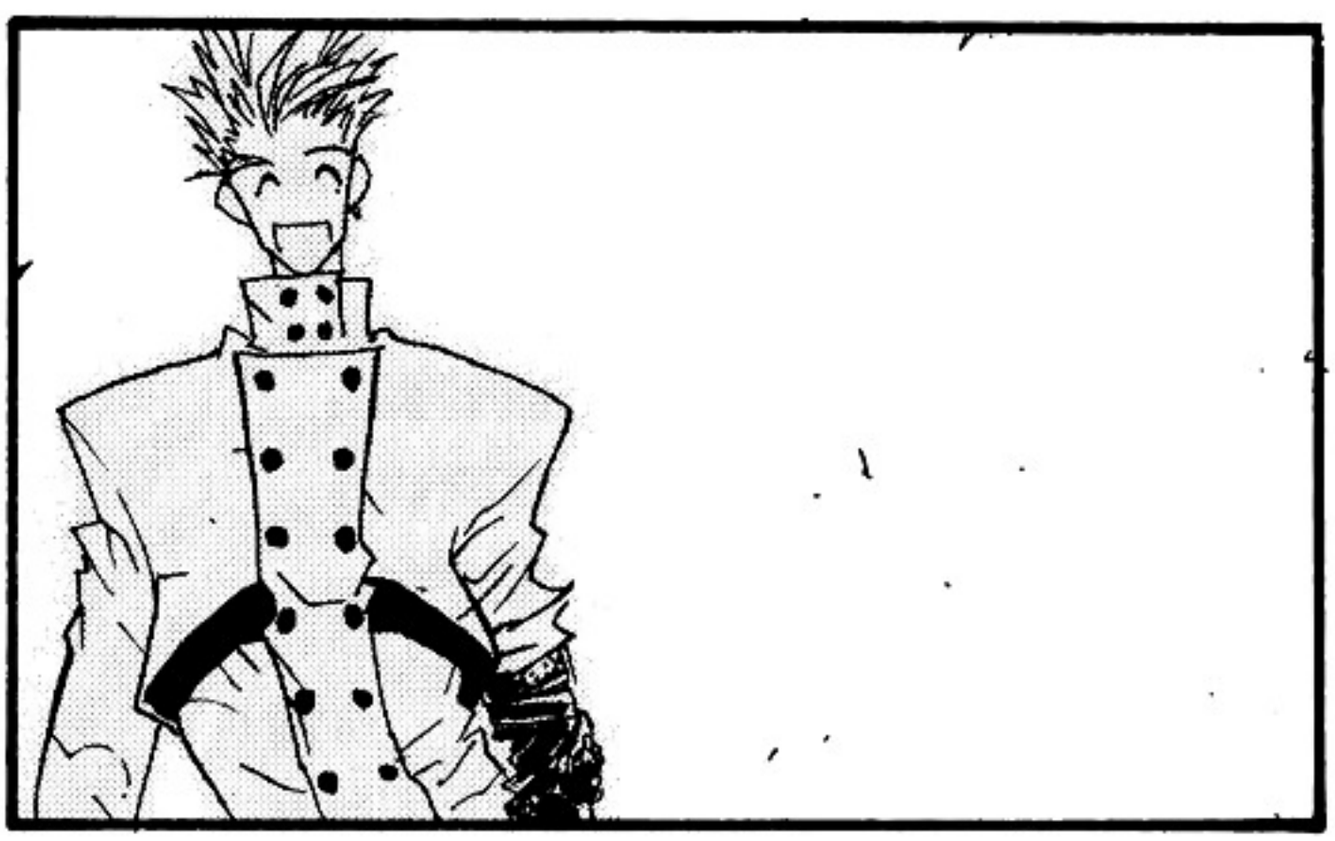
AHH...
THAT MAY BE SO.
HOWEVER...
YOU *WON'T* HAVE ANY MORE CHANCES TO TALK.
YOUR ASSESSMENT IS *SHARP* AND *ON POINT.*

...
...

WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE HOW FOOLISH IT WAS...
...FOR YOU TO GET THIS INVOLVED, GIRL.

...BUT A WOMAN CAN'T BE HAPPY WHEN SHE'S ALWAYS GETTING THROWN INTO LIFE THREATENING SITUATIONS!



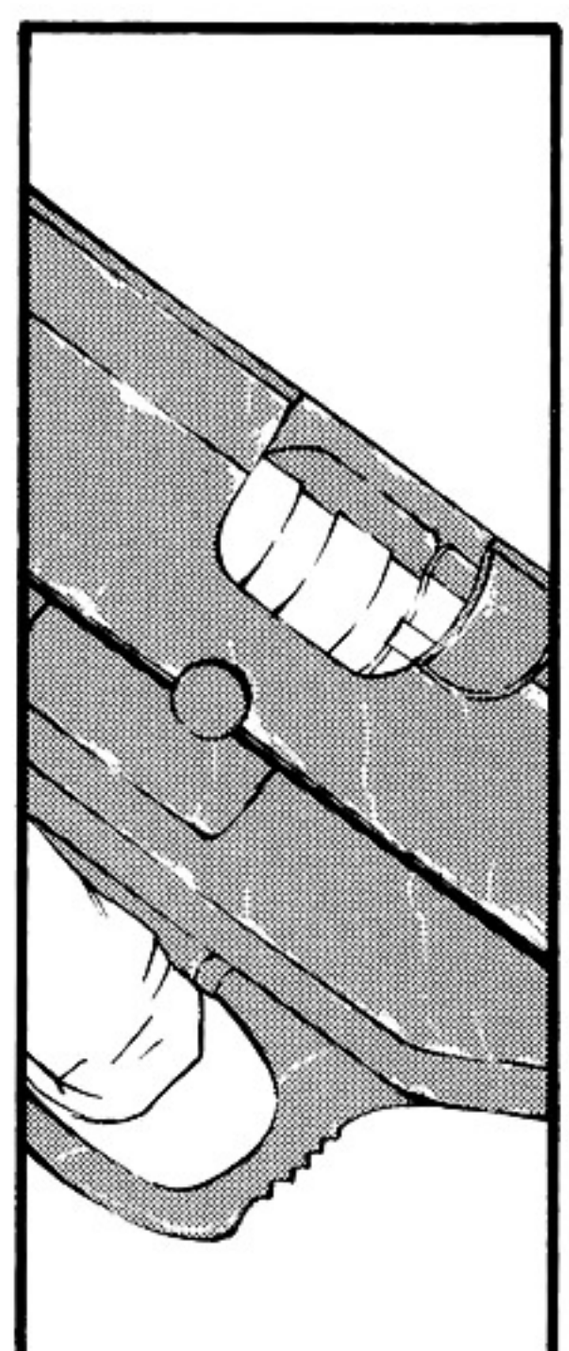


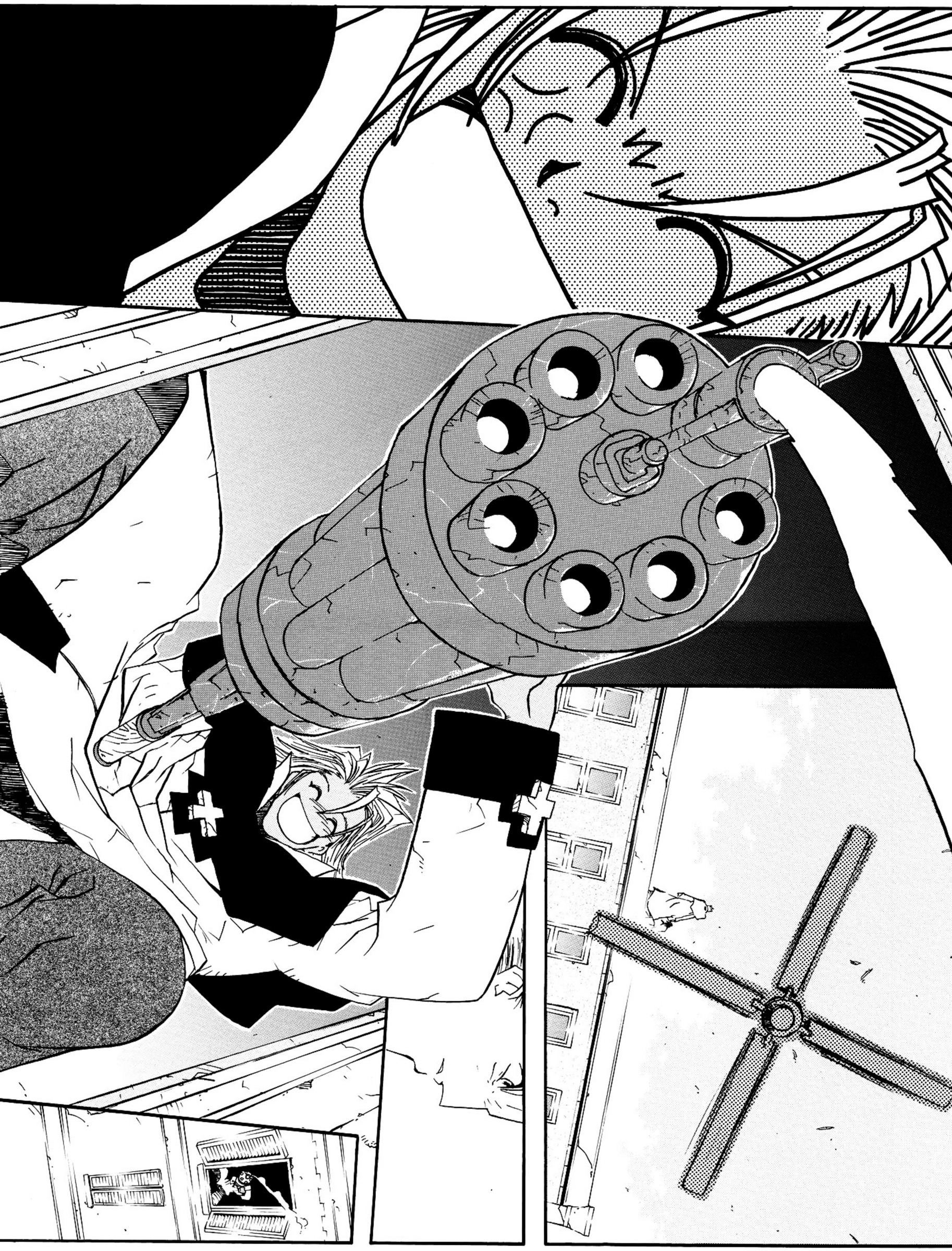
JUST LIKE KAREN SAID.
BUT WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

...
...
IT'S TRUE.

TOO BAD YOU'RE TOO LATE. YOUR TIME IS UP.
NOT TOO QUICK, ARE YOU?
HMPH.

...
...
ACTUALLY, YOU ARE THE ONE...
...WHO ISN'T VERY QUICK.





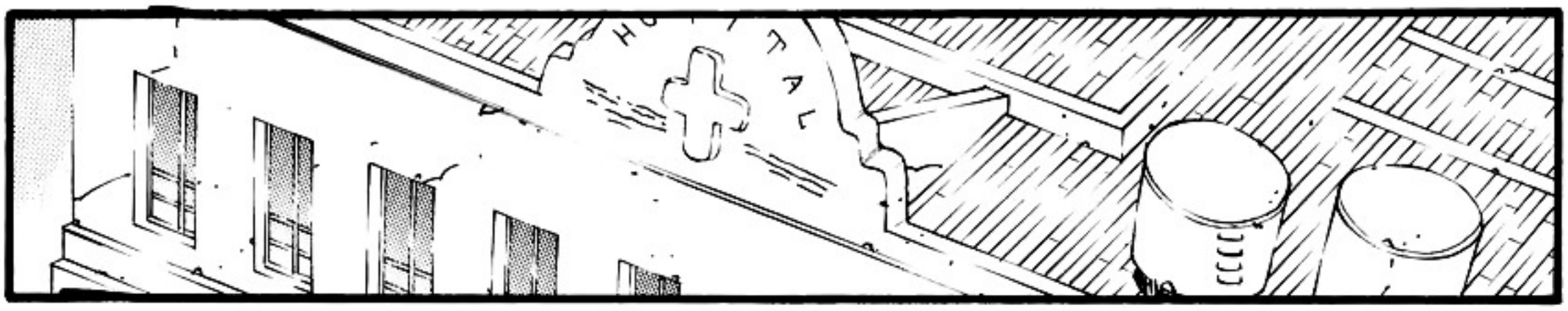
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
BAAM!
...
...
WHEW...

NICE WORK, MILLY!

NOW, LET'S GET BACK TO OUR VACATION.

I GOT HIM, MA'AM!

A CLEAN HIT!



HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD?!

THEY GOT THE GUNMAN FROM THE HOTEL SHOOT-OUT!

WHERE'S HE AT? IN JAIL?

SO THEY'RE BRINGING HIM *HERE!*

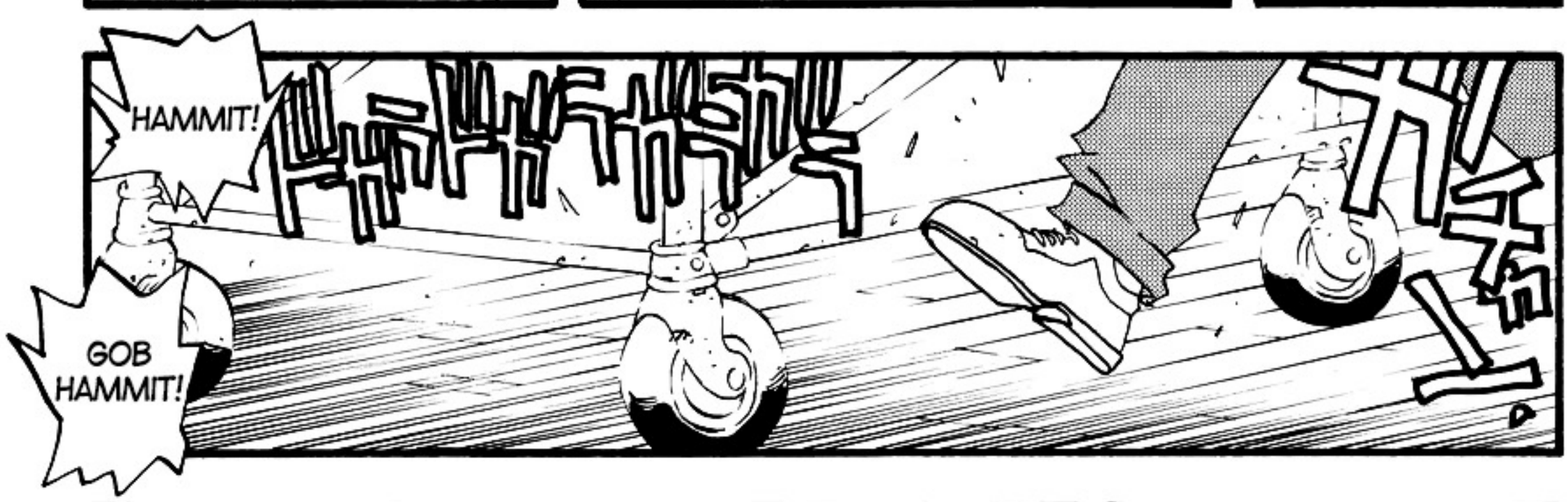
NO, HIS WHOLE FACE IS PRETTY TORN UP.

HEY!

YOU *BETTER* NOT GO DO ANYTHING NASTY!

JEEZ, HE'S A HEADACHE...

WOULD YOU PLEASE BE STILL?!
GET BACK HERE, WOLFWOOD!
WAIT! WAIT! WAIT! WHAT'S WITH THAT GRIN?!
OH, I HEAR YA.
I HEAR YA.

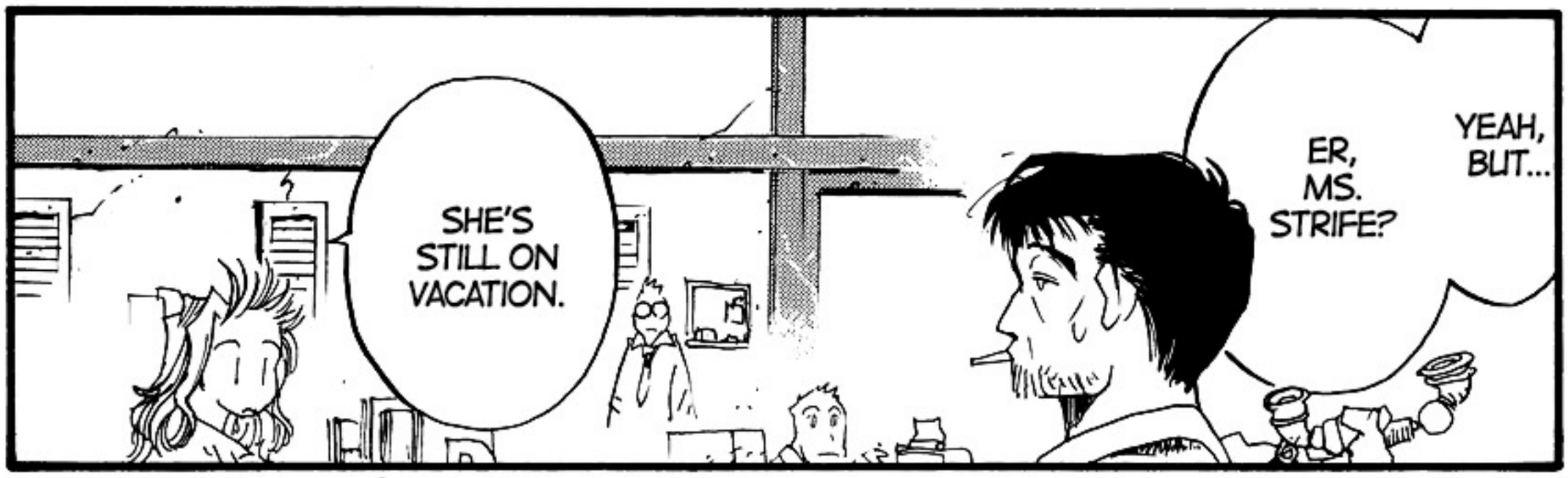

HAMMIT!
GOB HAMMIT!

H-HEY! WHO ARE YOU?!
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY! STEP ASIDE!
HE'S GOT SOME-THING!
HEY, DON'T-!
?!
HAT HOMAN!
FUGH! I'B GONNA KIHH HAH!

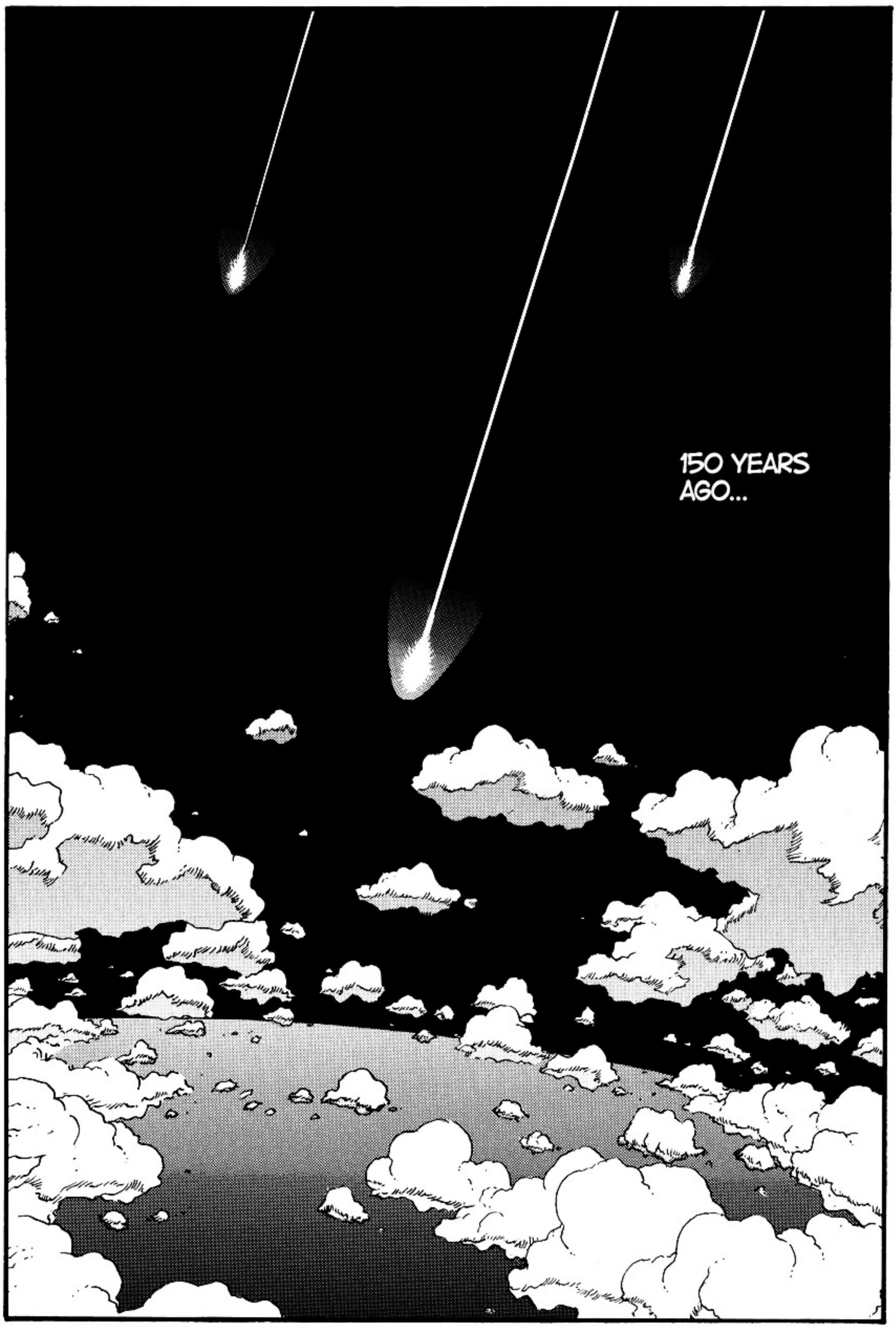
AAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!

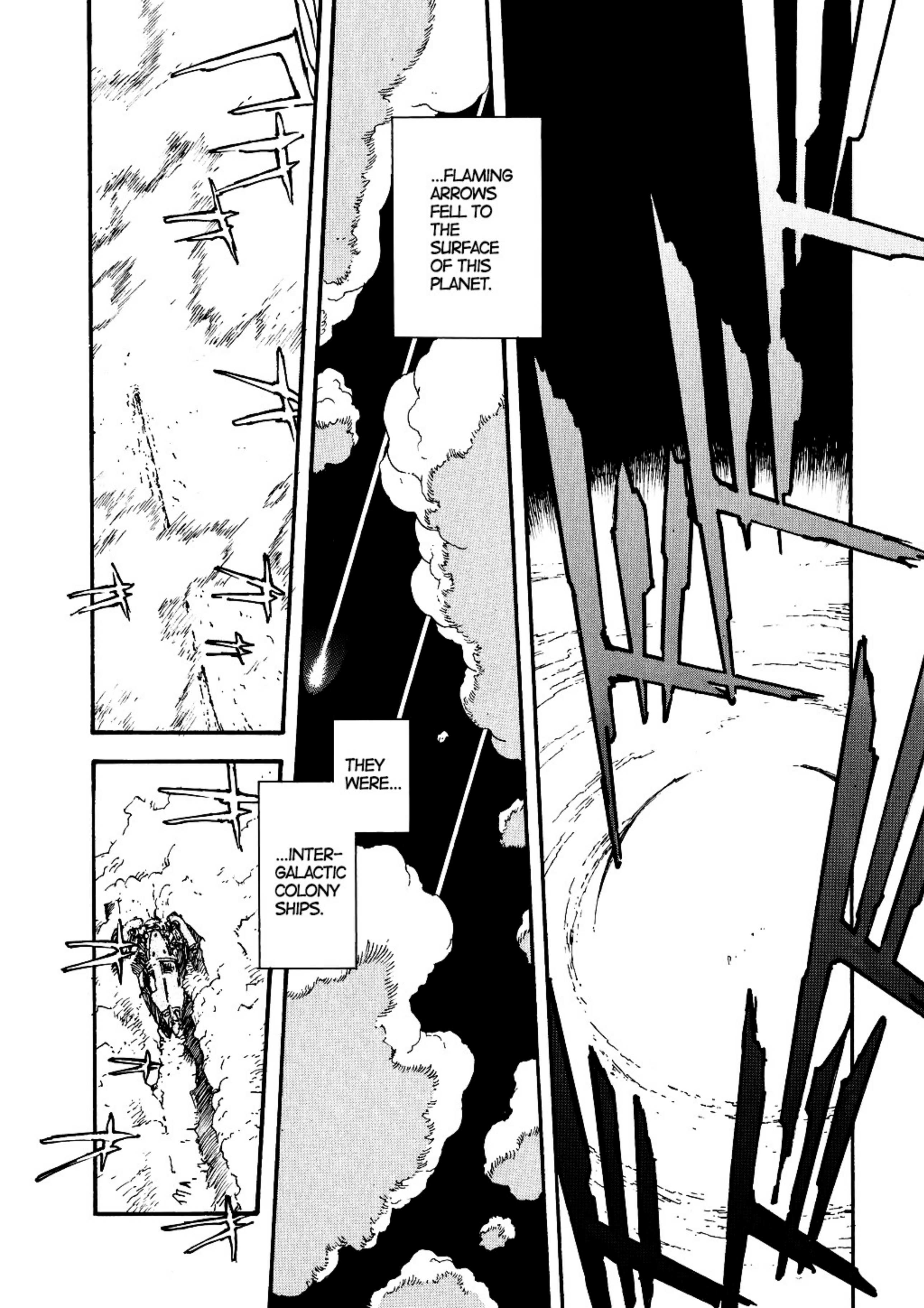
SO LET'S DEAL WITH THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES.

NOW, LET'S ENJOY OUR VACATION FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN!



#04. HERO RETURNS


150 YEARS
AGO...


...FLAMING ARROWS FELL TO THE SURFACE OF THIS PLANET.
THEY WERE...
...INTER-GALACTIC COLONY SHIPS.

CAN YOU STAND UP?

VASH?

HEY!

RAAH!

W– WATCH IT!

EVERY-ONE...

YOU KILLED THEM ALL!

IT'S...

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

REM...

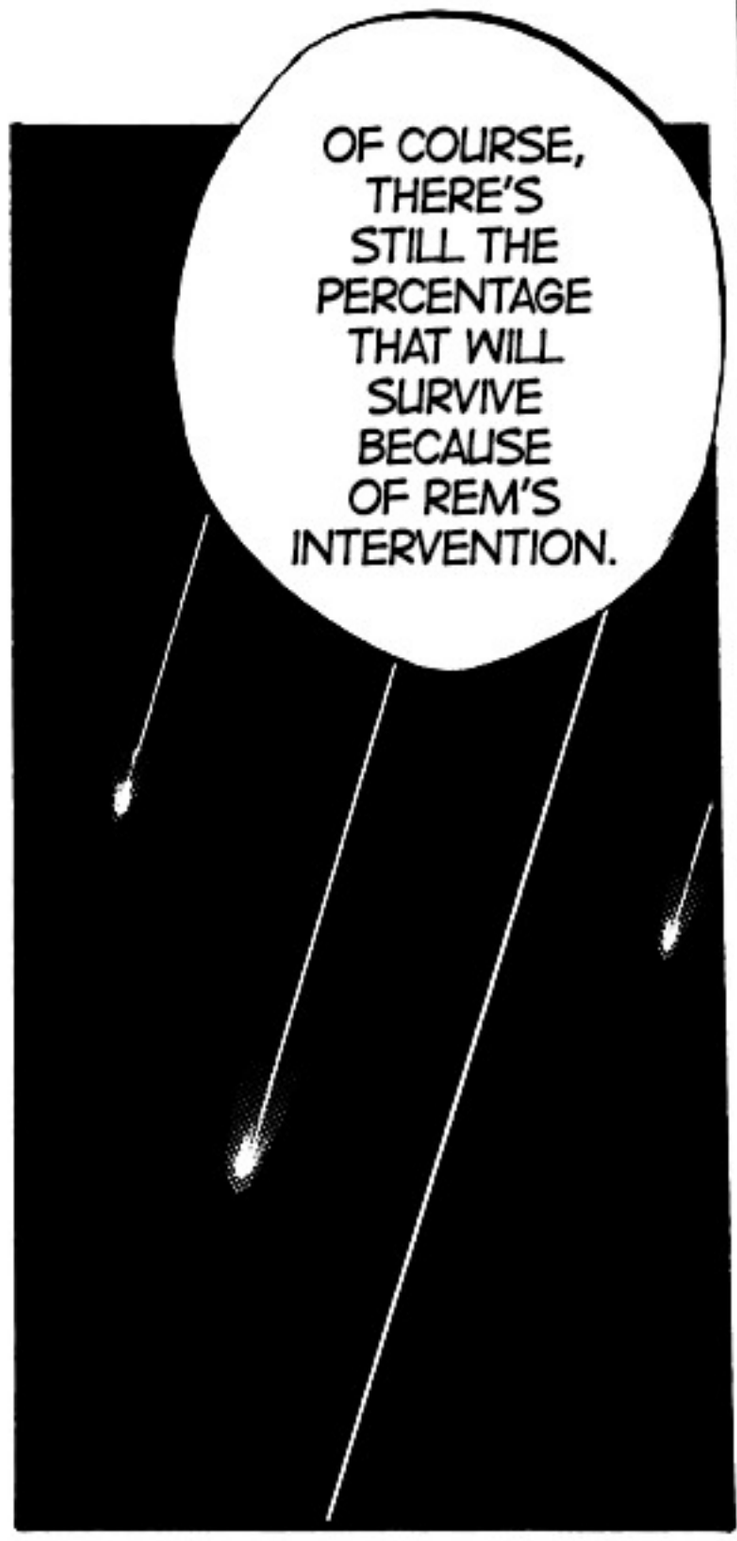
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU?

YOU AND I ARE BROTHERS. WE ONLY HAVE EACH OTHER.

...

KNIVES...
YOU...

YOU'RE...
...NOT HUMAN!


OF COURSE, THERE'S STILL THE PERCENTAGE THAT WILL SURVIVE BECAUSE OF REM'S INTERVENTION.

YES!
IT WAS NECESSARY.
MAGNIFICENT, TO NEARLY BE RID OF THAT PLAGUE.

DON'T EVER COMPARE ME TO THOSE VERMIN!
DON'T EVER! NEVER AGAIN!

PRECISELY! LIKE HELL I'LL BE LIKE THEM!

REM...

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

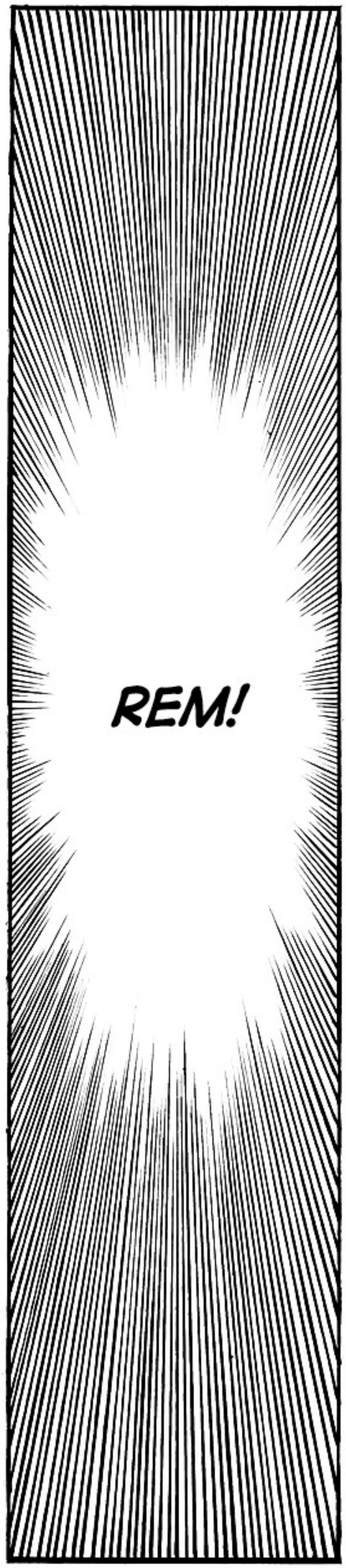
REM...

JUST YOU WAIT, *TRASH!*

I'LL WIPE YOU *ALL* OUT!

IN THE END, ONLY THE TWO OF US WILL REMAIN STANDING ON THIS PLANET!

NNH...

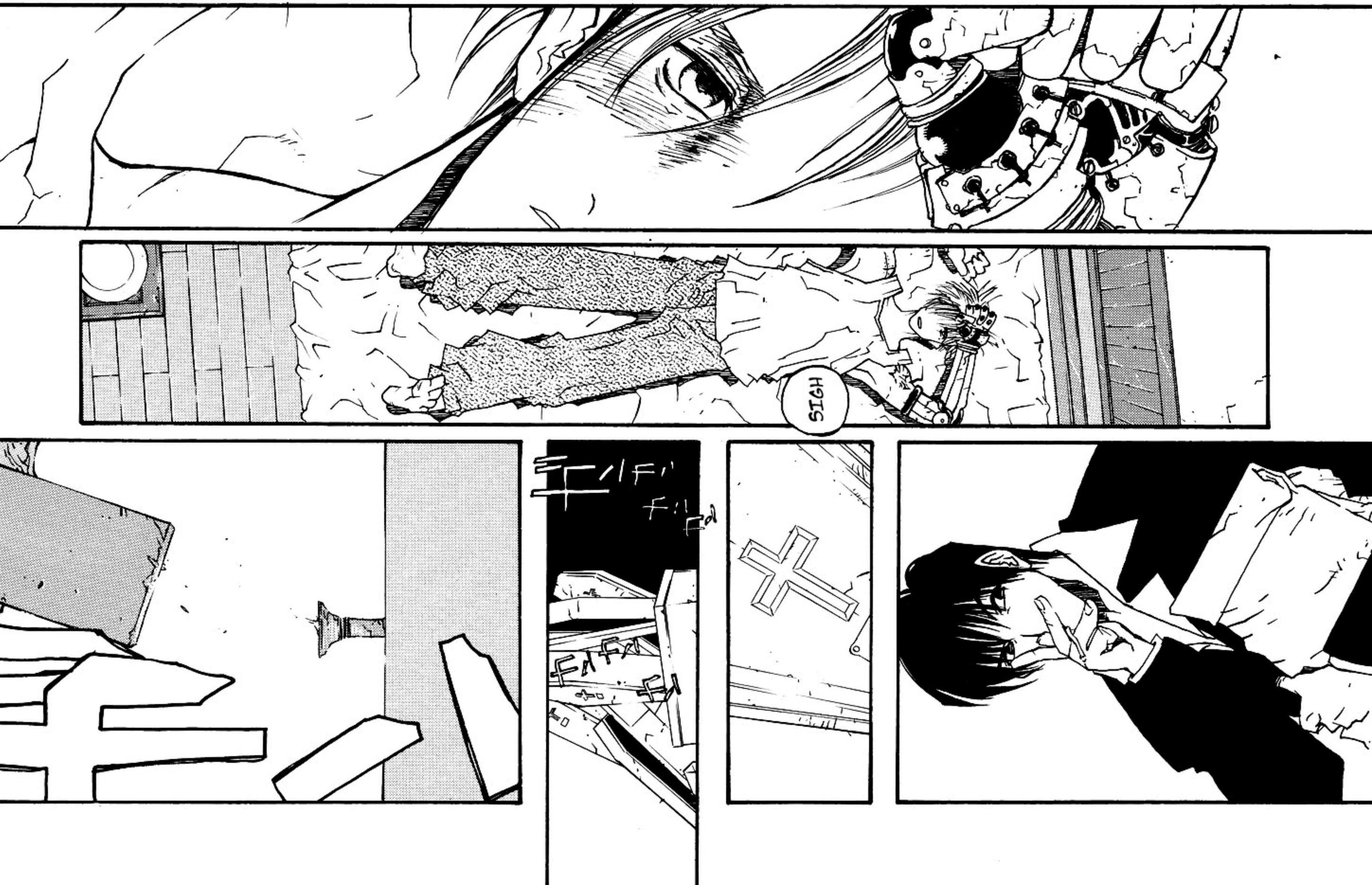


TO THE STARS, IT IS ONLY A MOMENT...

...BUT TO HUMANS, AN ETERNITY WILL PASS.

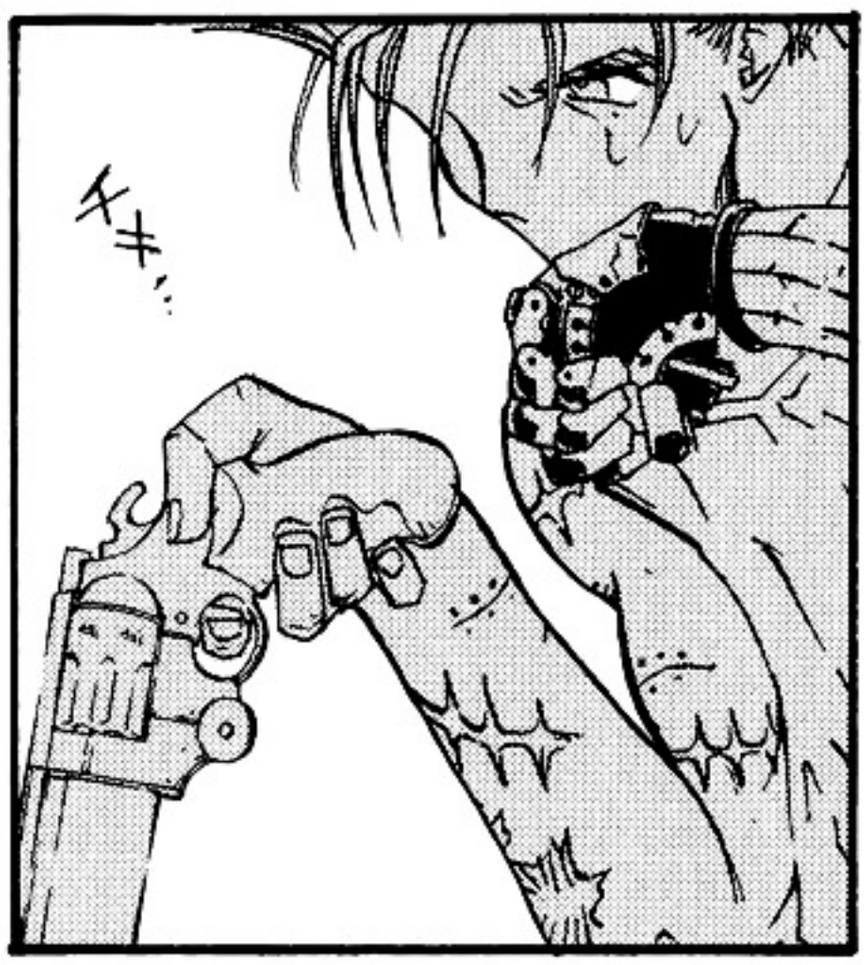
FORGETTING BRINGS TOO MUCH SORROW.

REMEMBERING LEADS TO EVERLASTING PAIN.


SIGH

BUT WHEN I FINISH THESE, I'LL START ON TH' OTHERS.
HM-MM.
NAH.
THOSE FOR LATER?

HUPI
HUPI
HUPI
HUPI
HUPI
HUPI
HUPI
HUPI
HUPI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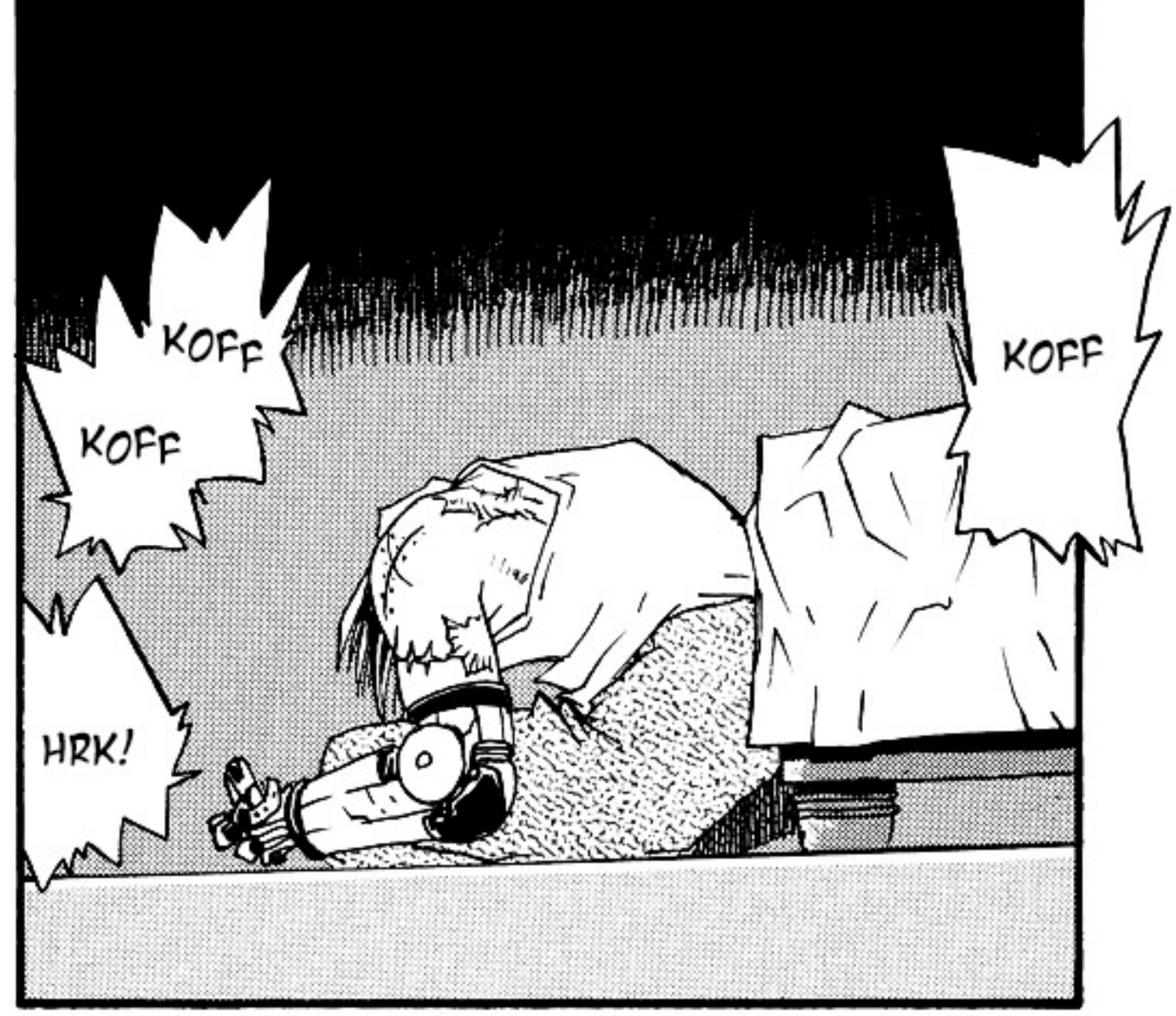
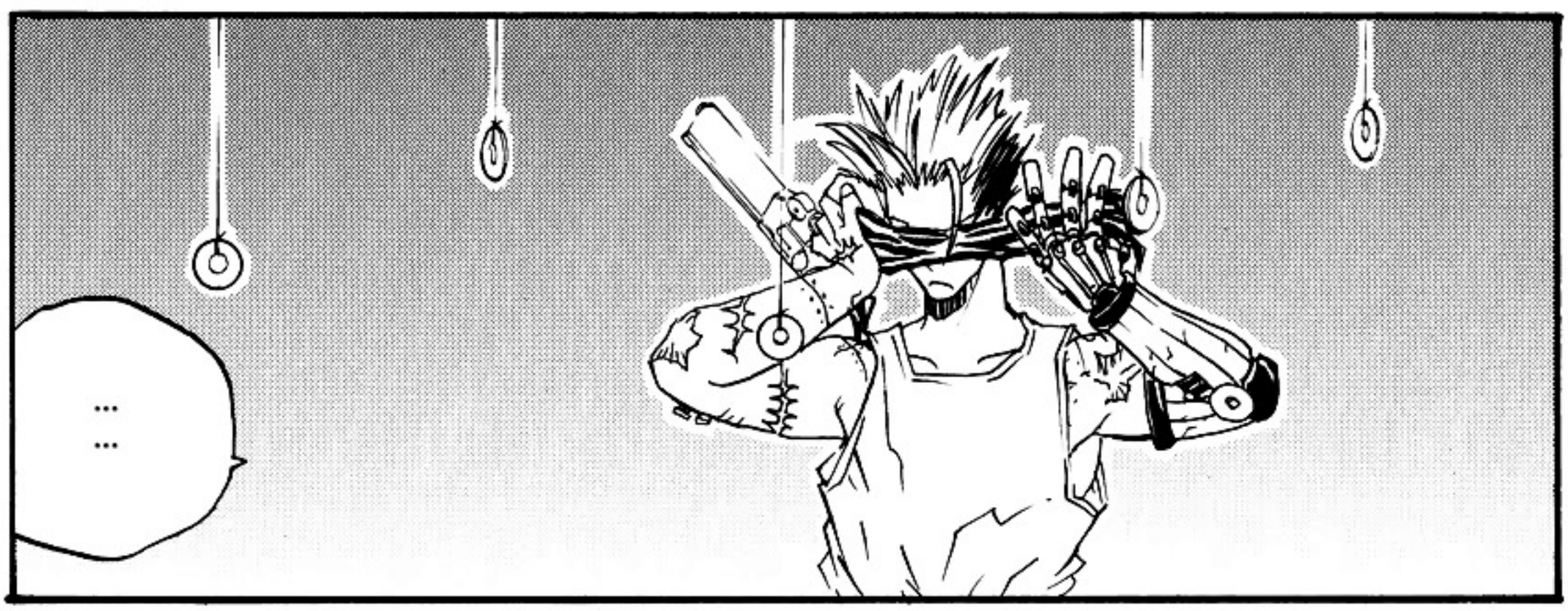
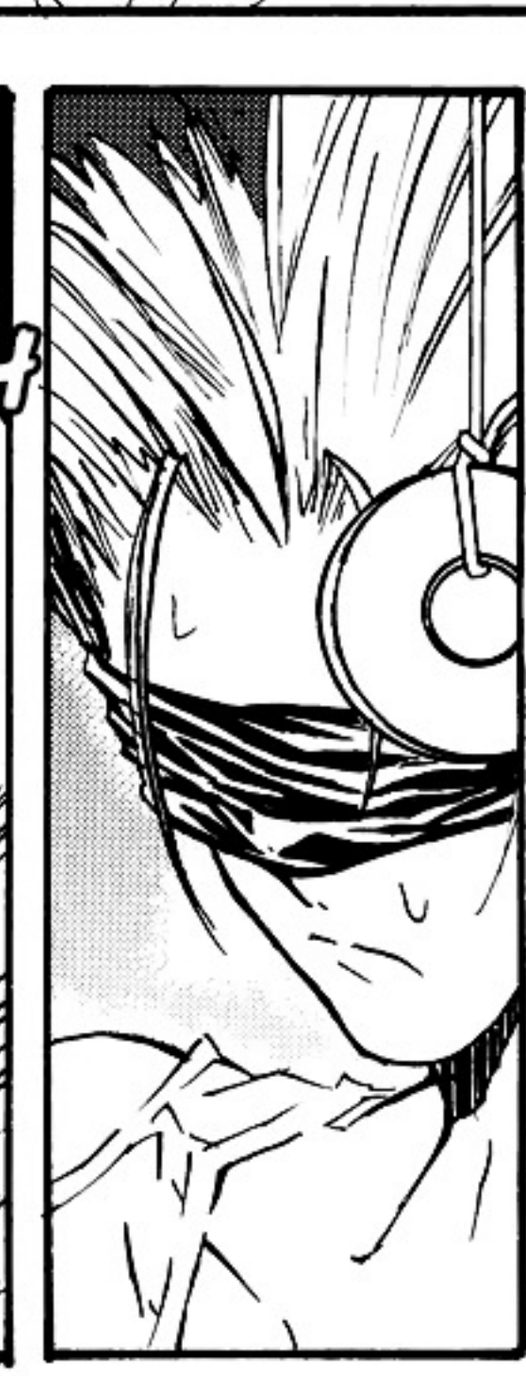
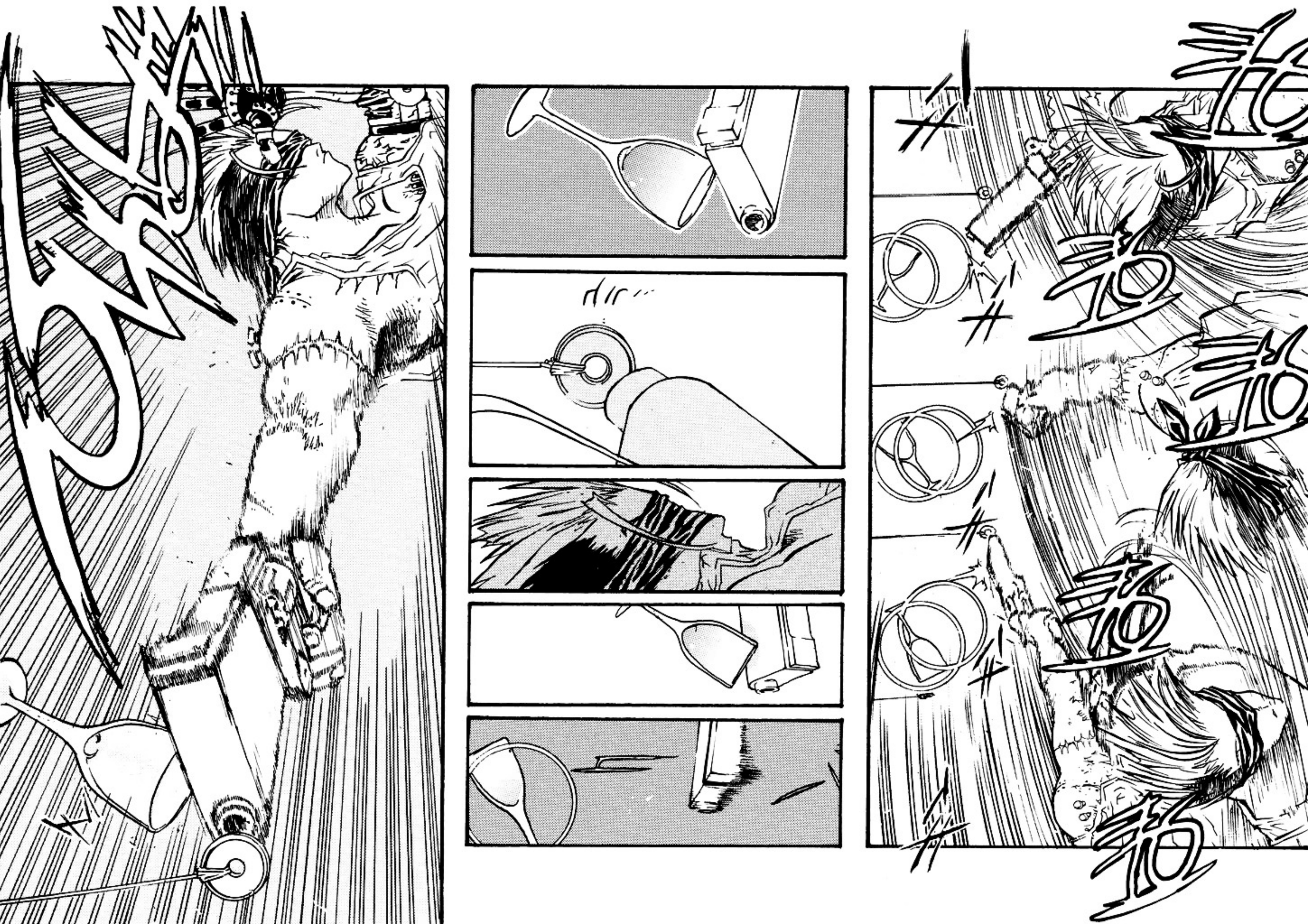
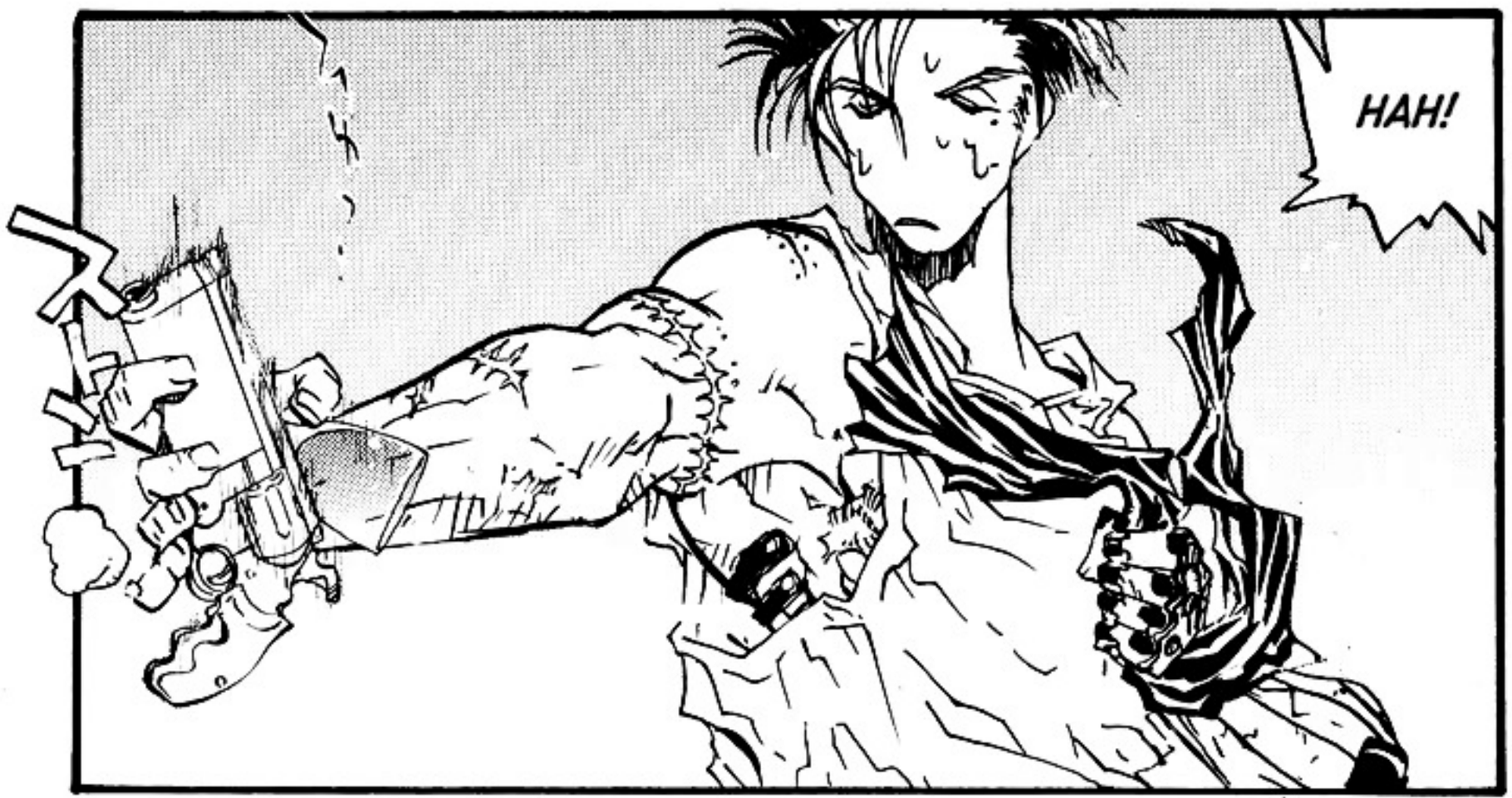

KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
HRK!

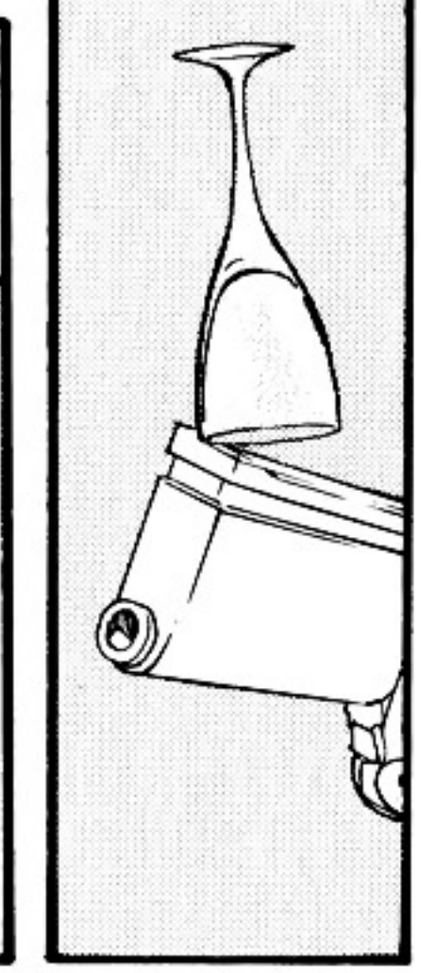

...
...

WHOOSH






HAH!

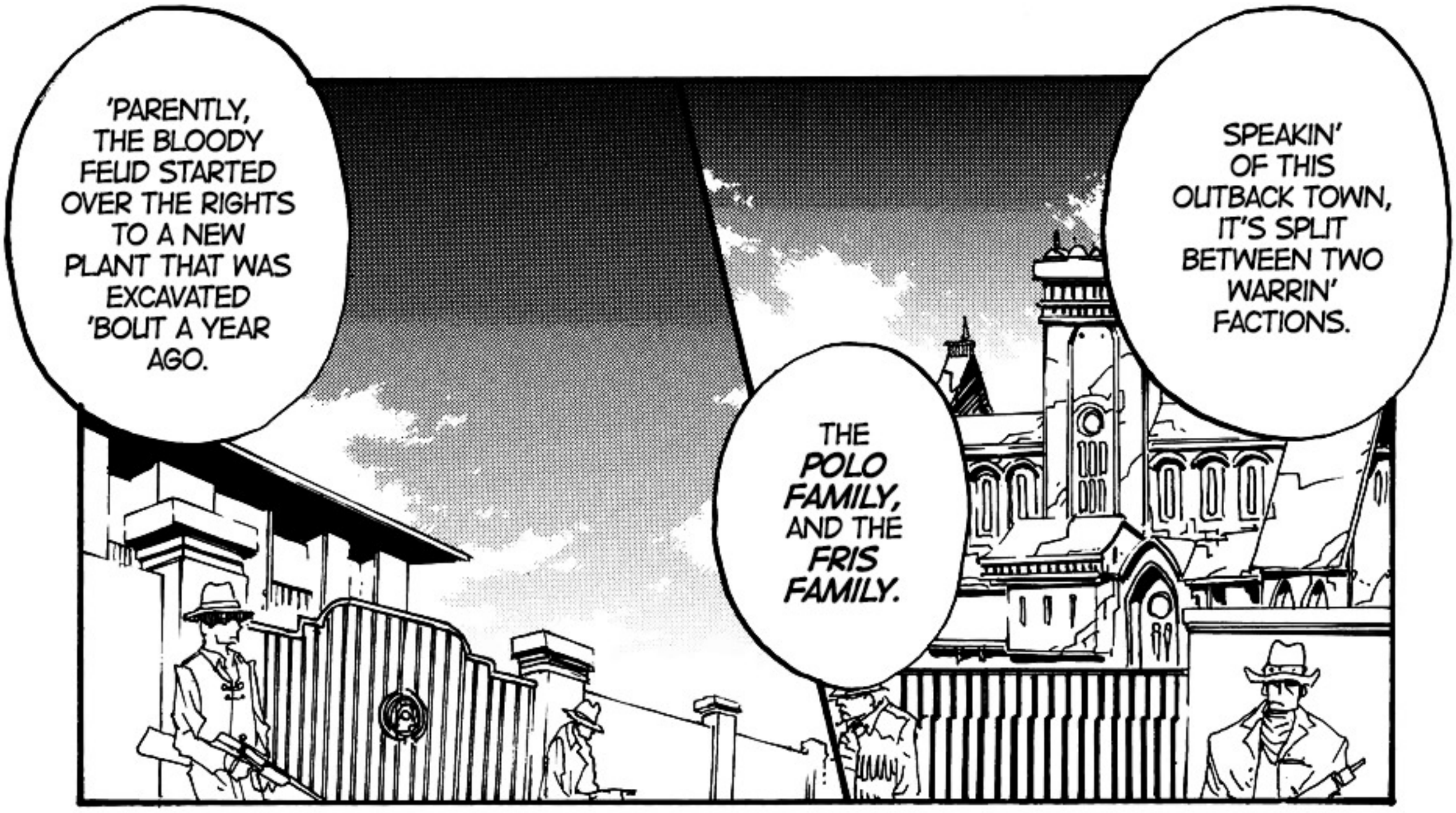


IT SMELLS LIKE CRAP IN HERE!
UGH!
GOOD LORD!

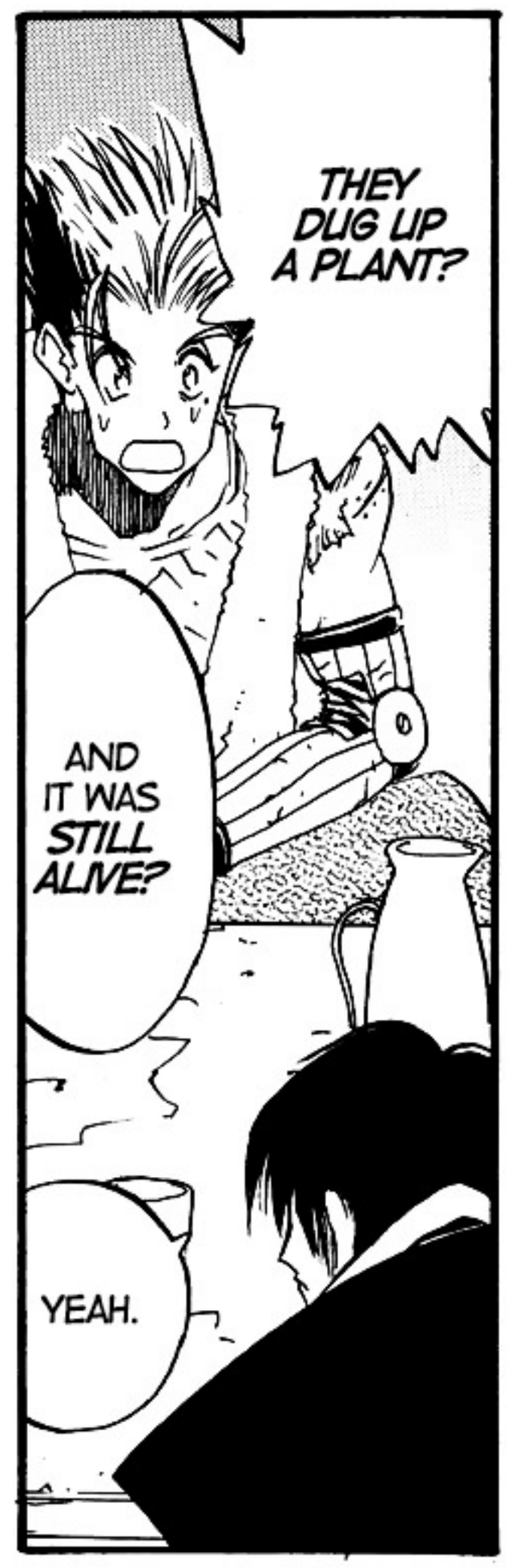
HEY, NEEDLE-NOGGIN!

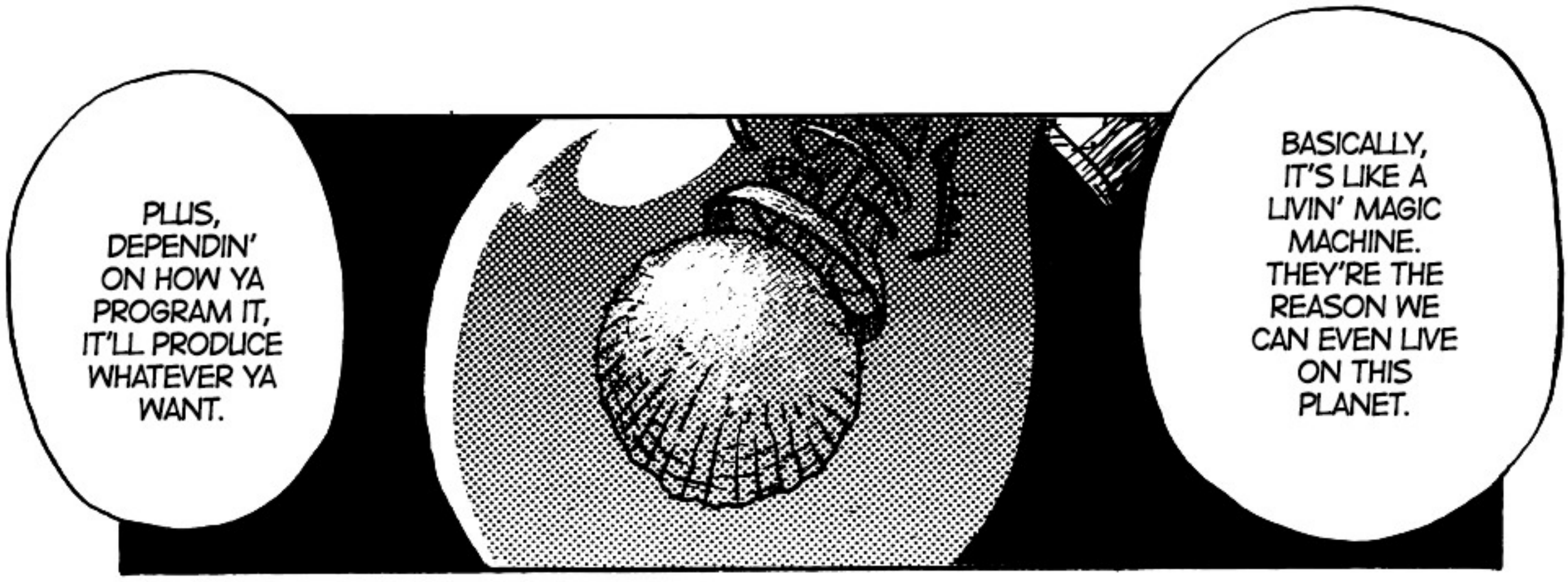
I INDULGED YA BY COMIN' HERE TO HICKSVILLE!
YEAH, SO WHAT, NEEDLE-NOGGIN?
WHO YOU CALLING NEEDLE-NOGGIN?

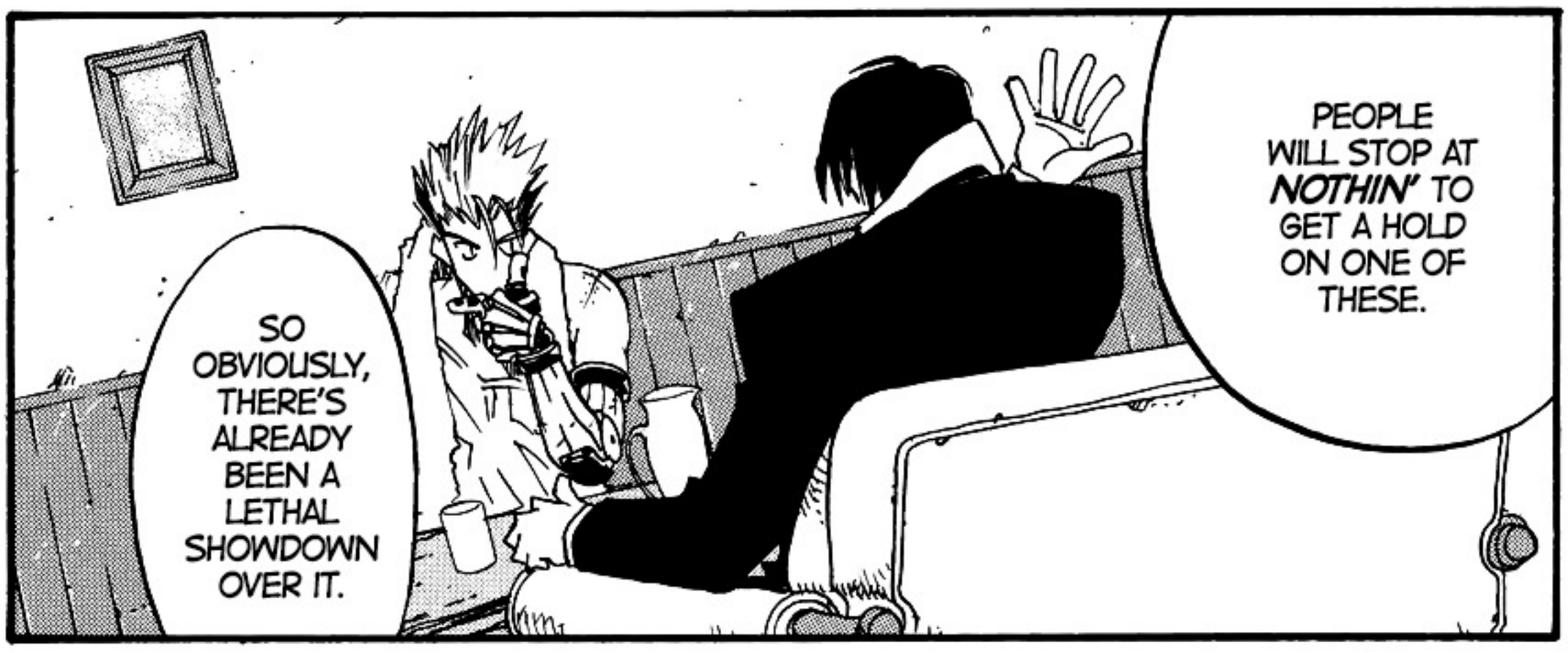
COULDN'T YA OPEN A DAMN WINDOW, IDIOT?!
AAAH! I'LL GET A COLD!


'PARENTLY, THE BLOODY FEUD STARTED OVER THE RIGHTS TO A NEW PLANT THAT WAS EXCAVATED 'BOUT A YEAR AGO.
THE *POLO FAMILY,* AND THE *FRIS FAMILY.*
SPEAKIN' OF THIS OUTBACK TOWN, IT'S SPLIT BETWEEN TWO WARRIN' FACTIONS.

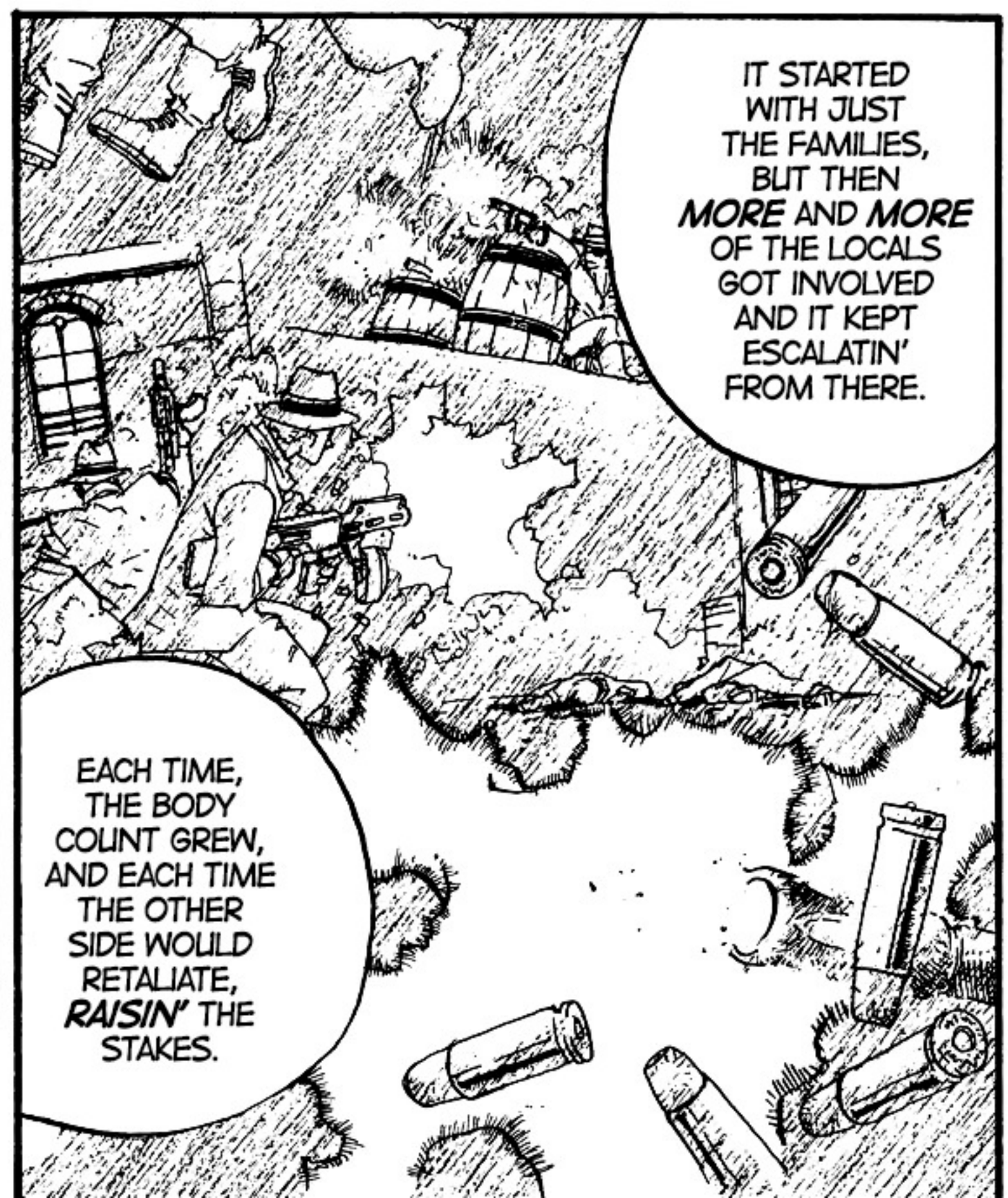
THEY FOUND IT IN THE WRECK OF ONE OF THE OLD COLONY SHIPS.
IT'S BEEN OVER 150 YEARS, BUT SOMEHOW IT STILL WORKS.


THEY DUG UP A PLANT?
AND IT WAS *STILL ALIVE?*
YEAH.


PLUS, DEPENDIN' ON HOW YA PROGRAM IT, IT'LL PRODUCE WHATEVER YA WANT.
BASICALLY, IT'S LIKE A LIVIN' MAGIC MACHINE. THEY'RE THE REASON WE CAN EVEN LIVE ON THIS PLANET.


SO OBVIOUSLY, THERE'S ALREADY BEEN A LETHAL SHOWDOWN OVER IT.
PEOPLE WILL STOP AT *NOTHIN'* TO GET A HOLD ON ONE OF THESE.

NOW THE RAPES AND MURDERS ARE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH, PUSHIN' THE TENSION TO THE BREAKIN' POINT.
THAT'S WHY THE WHOLE TOWN IS ON EDGE.


IT STARTED WITH JUST THE FAMILIES, BUT THEN *MORE* AND *MORE* OF THE LOCALS GOT INVOLVED AND IT KEPT ESCALATIN' FROM THERE.
EACH TIME, THE BODY COUNT GREW, AND EACH TIME THE OTHER SIDE WOULD RETALIATE, *RAISIN'* THE STAKES.

WHY DO YOU...

IT'S JUST SO *SAD.* WHY DO THINGS LIKE THIS ALWAYS HAVE TO HAPPEN?

QUIT CRYIN'!

GAH!

A LITTLE WHILE AGO I PASSED THE UNDERTAKER'S AND–

NO CAN DO.

LET'S *SCRAM* BEFORE WE GET DRAGGED INTO THIS.

ANY-WAY...

...
...

WE'VE *HAD* THIS TALK ALREADY.

EVEN PEOPLE WHO WOULD NEVER FIGHT WILL PICK UP A GUN IF THEIR LOVED ONES ARE KILLED.

THAT'S A *SE---CR--- ET.*

SAY *WHAT?!*

WITH *WHO?*

I'VE GOT AN APPOINT-MENT.

...
...

YOU'RE KEEPING THINGS FROM ME TOO! *FAIR* IS *FAIR!*

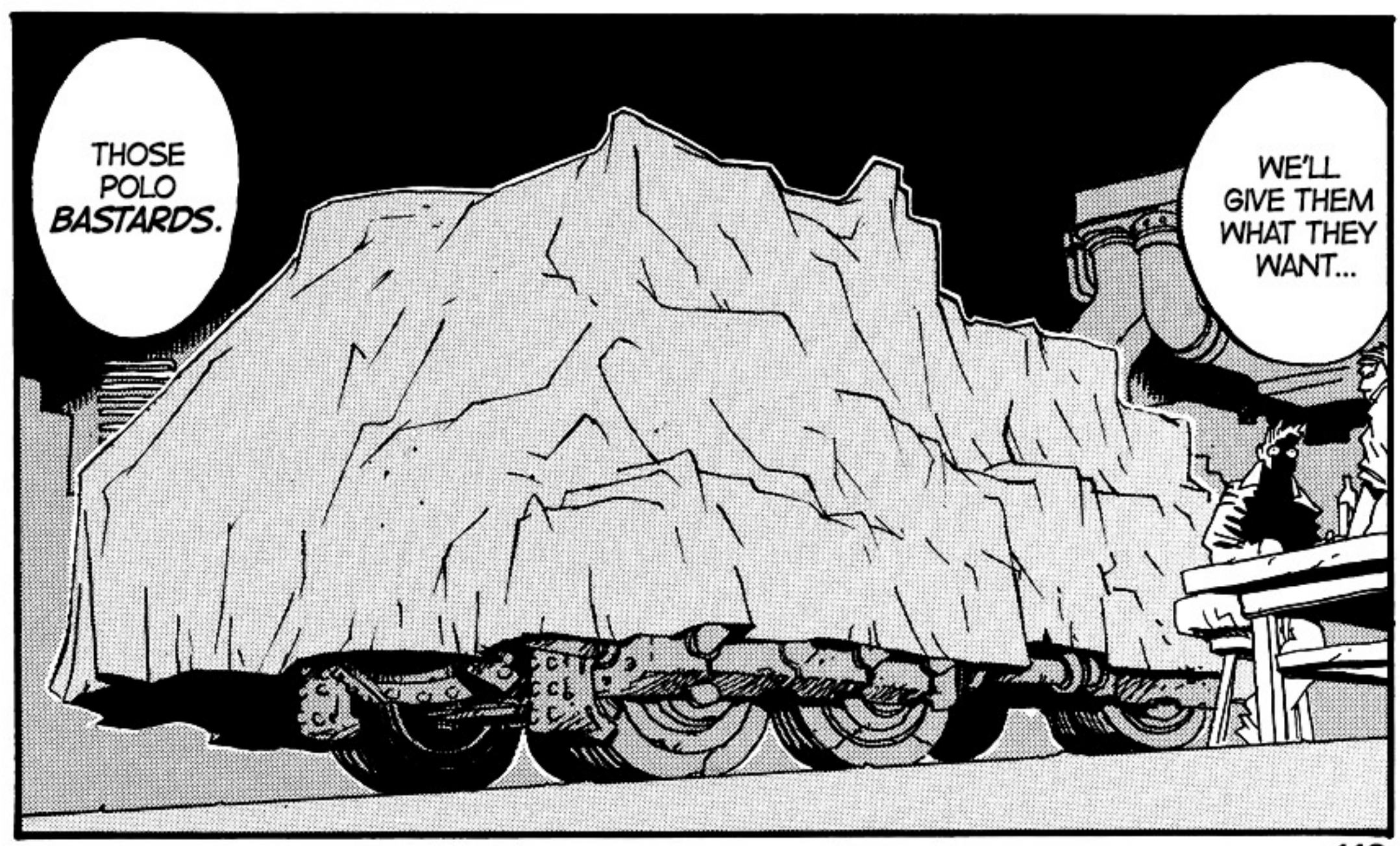
WHAT THE HELL?! QUIT ACTIN' LIKE A *MORON!*

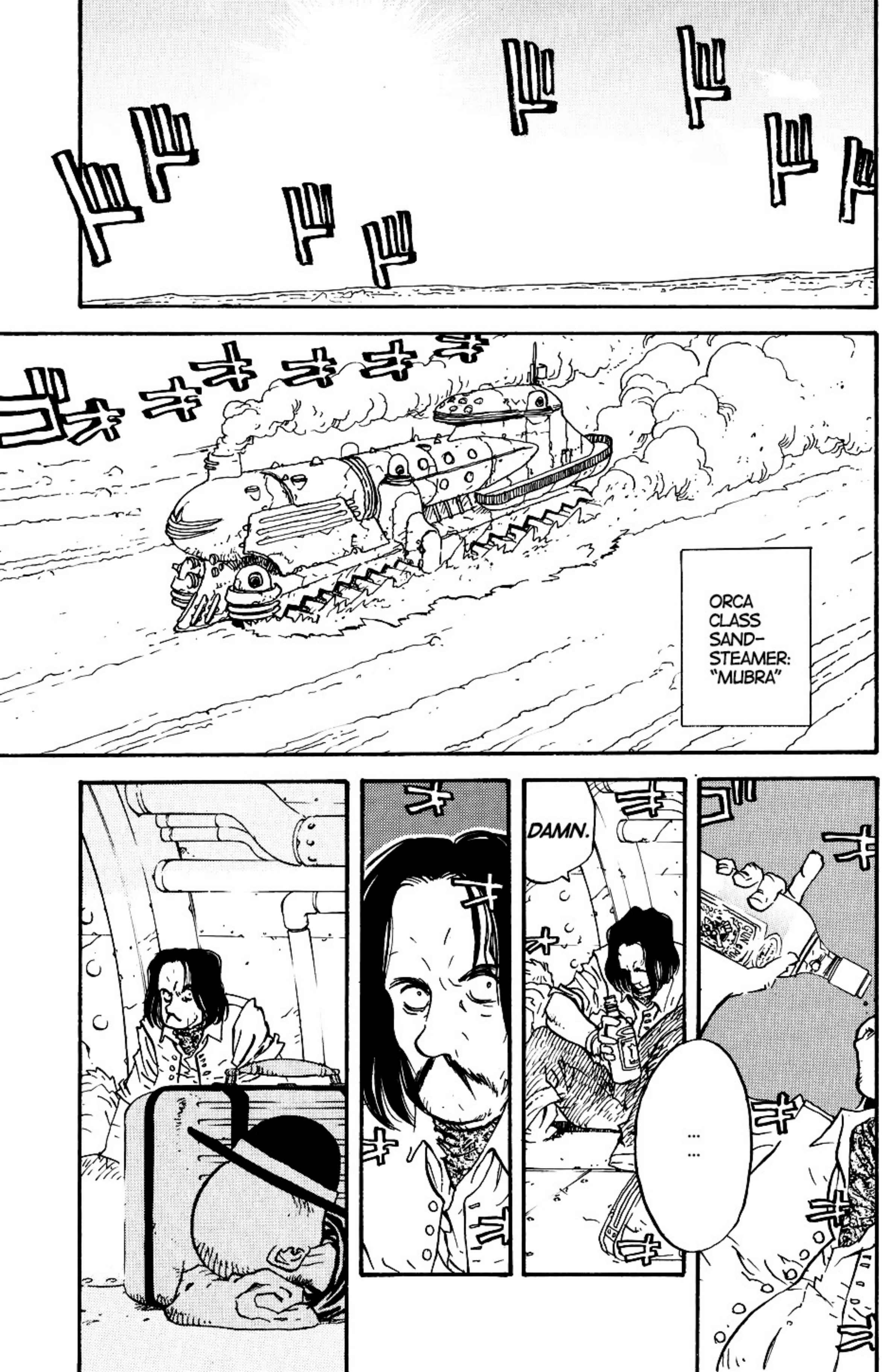
THEN WE'LL CONTINUE AS PLANNED.

VERY GOOD.
SHIDAN IS LEAVING HERE ON THE NEXT SAND-STEAMER.

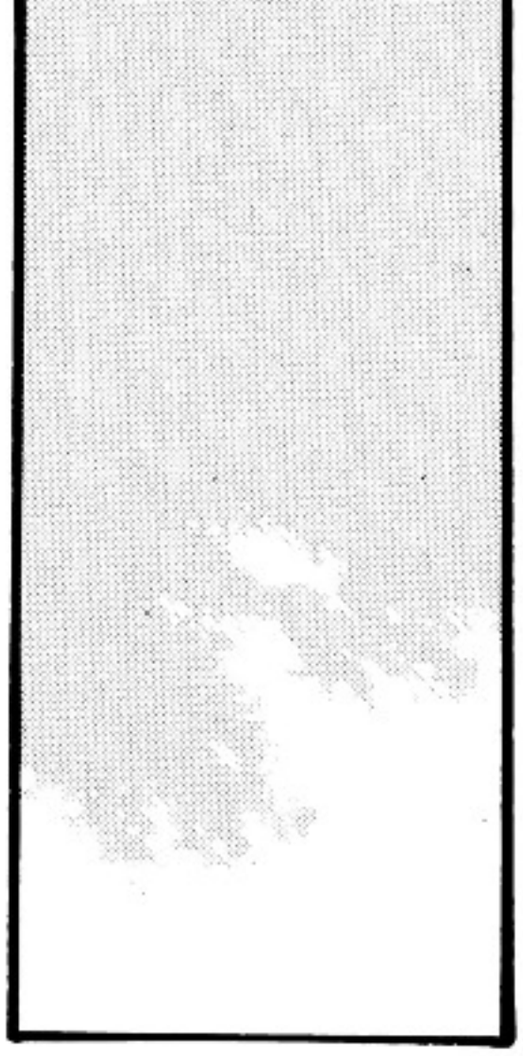
IT'S CON-FIRMED.

IT'S *ME*.

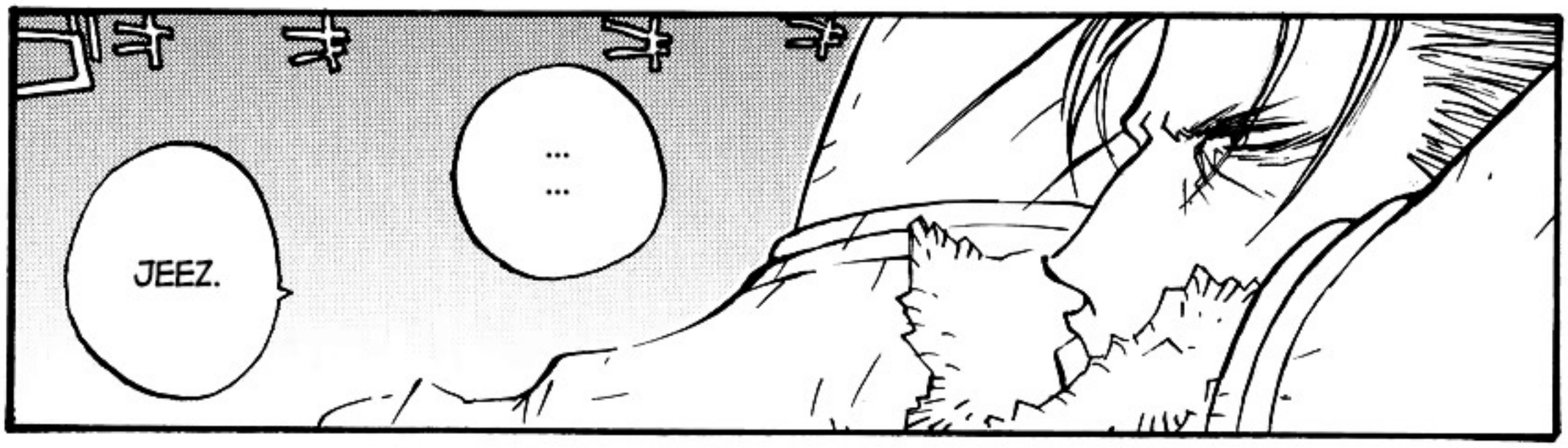

THOSE POLO *BASTARDS*.
WE'LL GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT...

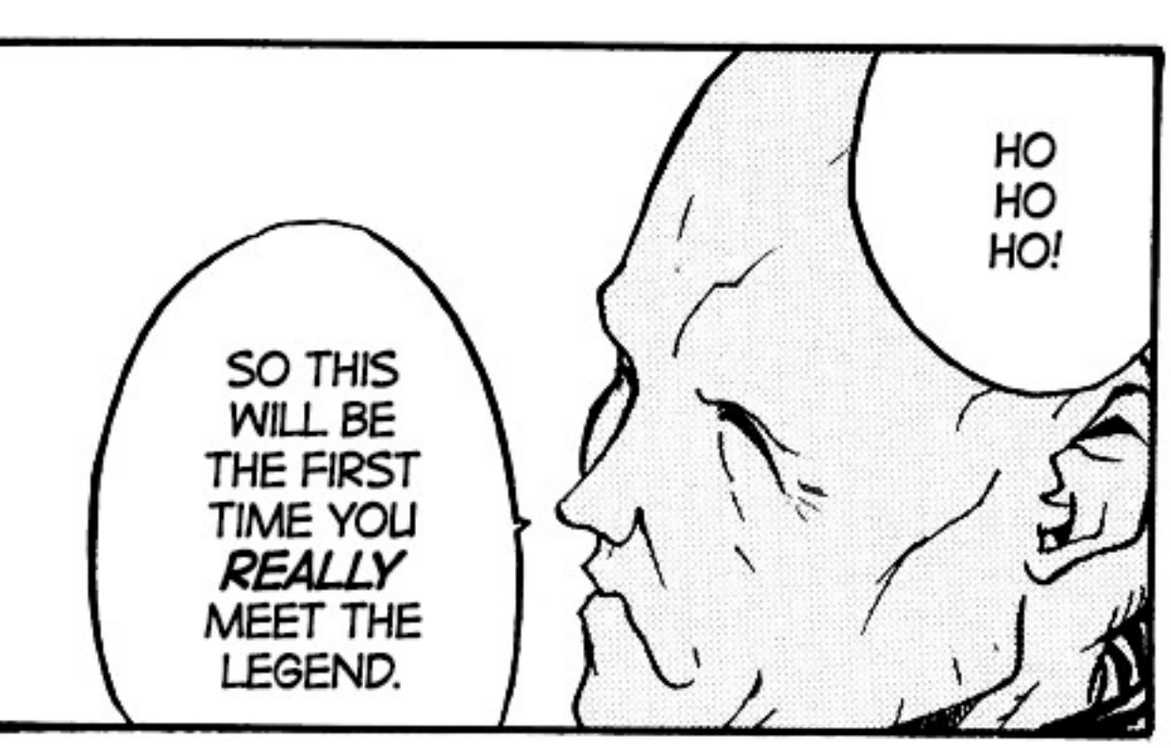

ORCA CLASS SAND-STEAMER: "MUBRA"
DAMN.
...

PS
...MESSING WITH ANOTHER MAN'S LUGGAGE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...
YOU...
YOU ASS-HOLE!
?!
BRAD!
ARE YOU CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN?
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
HMM?
EHEH...
I'M S-S-S-S-S-S-
SORRY...



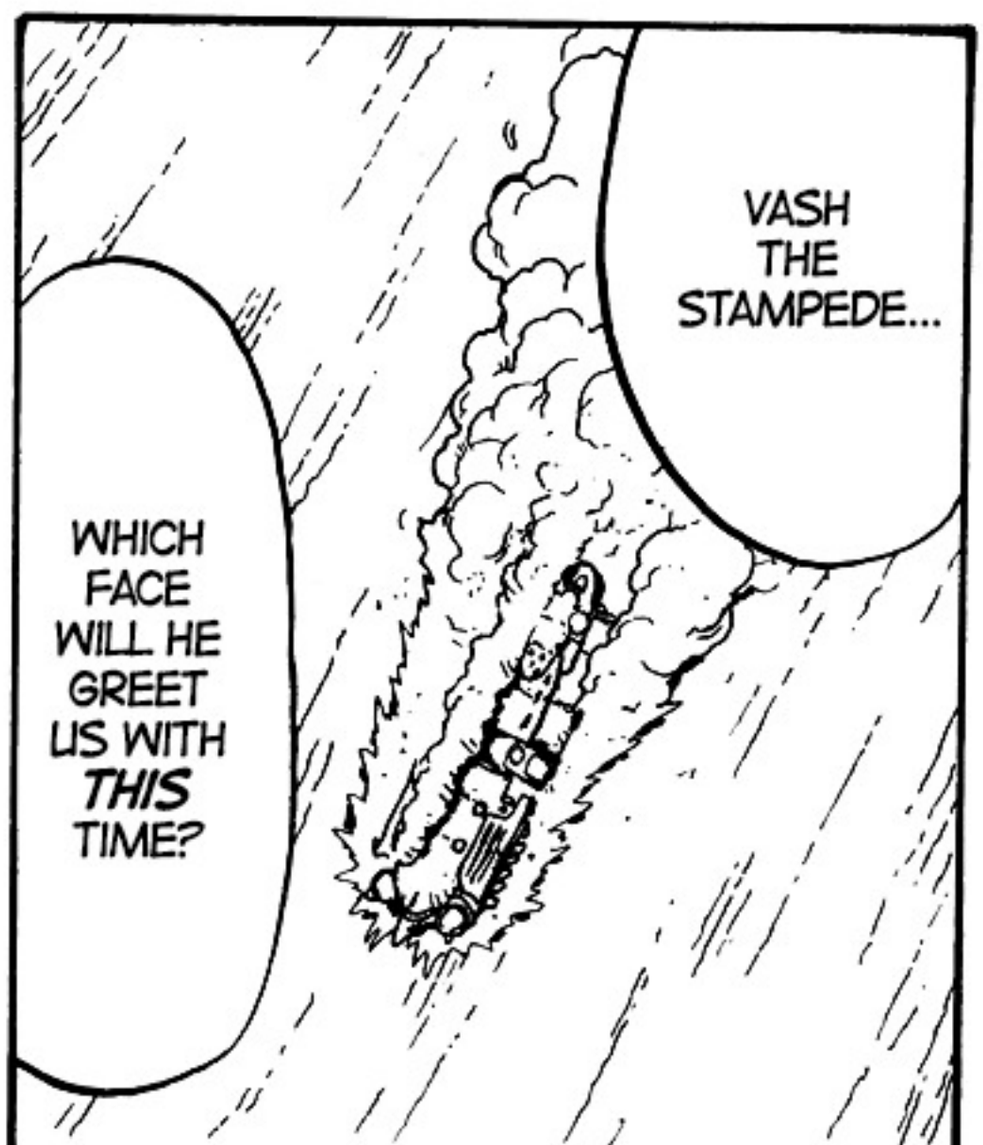
HERE, LET ME TAKE CARE OF IT.
THIS MAN IS *BLEED-ING!*
DON'T MAKE EXCUSES.
NO, DOCTOR.


JEEZ.
...
...


SO THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME YOU *REALLY* MEET THE LEGEND.
HO HO HO!

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME YOU MEET *HIM,* RIGHT?
NOPE.
I MET HIM ONCE WHEN I WAS FOUR.

THESE OUTSIDERS ARE PATHETIC.
WHY ARE WE GOING THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE DEALING WITH THEM?


VASH THE STAMPEDE...
WHICH FACE WILL HE GREET US WITH *THIS* TIME?

THE ONE WRAPPED UP BY THE KID?!

THAT'S HIM?!

HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT. THAT'S A RELIEF.

DOWN HERE!

YO! DOC!

DON'T FRET OVER IT.

NO KIDDING.

SORRY ABOUT THE SHORT NOTICE.

OKAY, YOU GUYS.

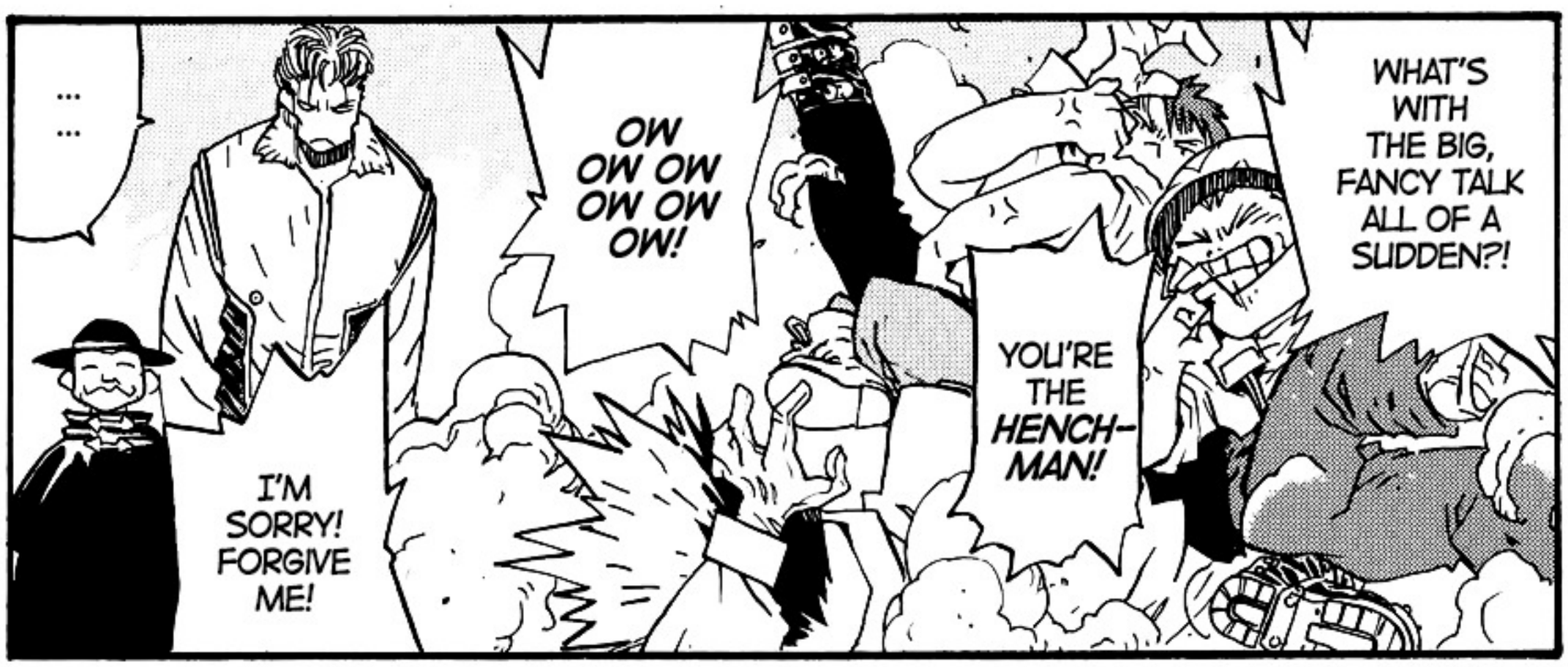
I'VE GOT TO TALK TO THESE NICE MEN NOW..

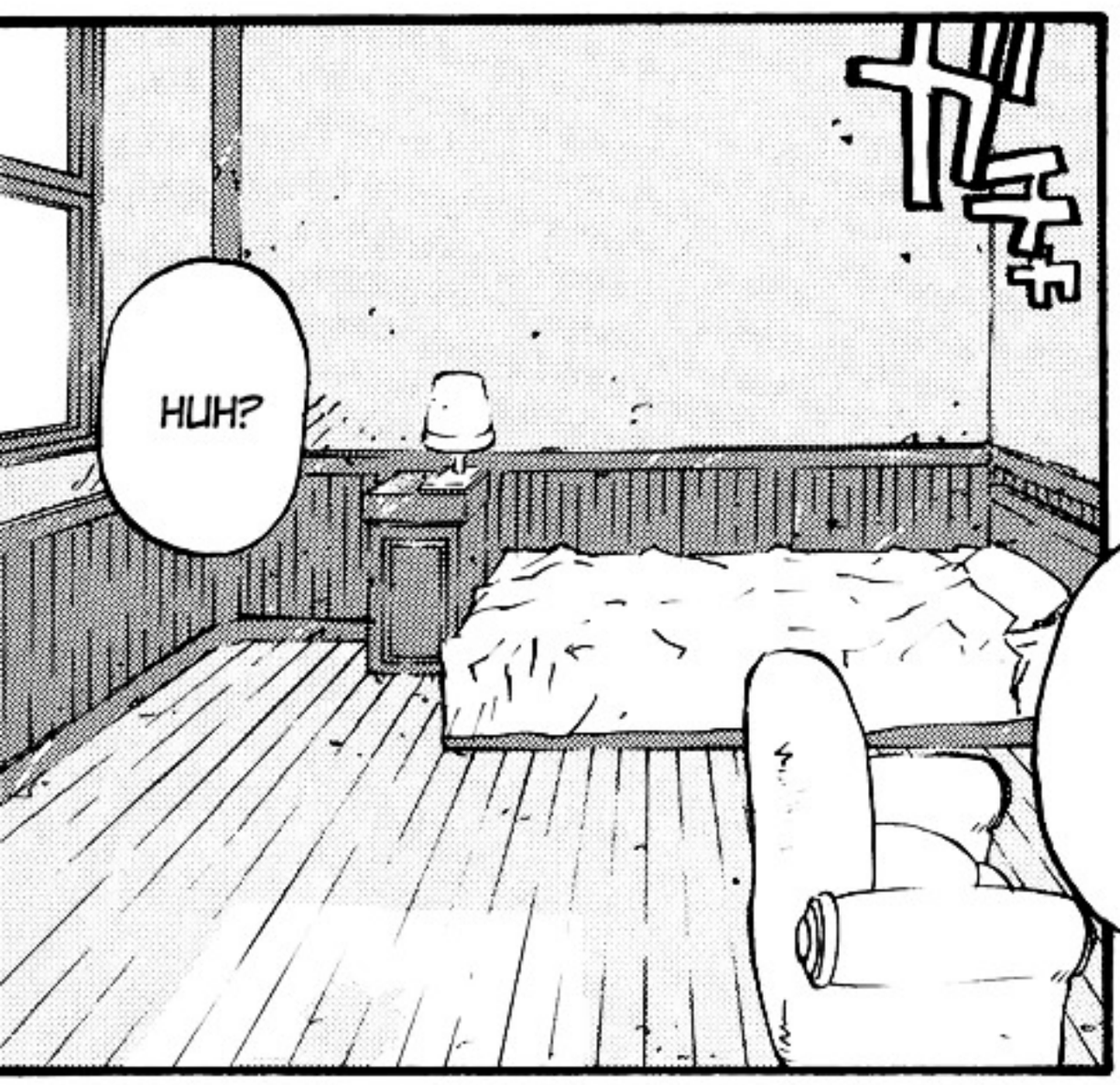
...SO, WE'RE DONE FOR TODAY.

WOW, YOU'VE REALLY GROWN UP!

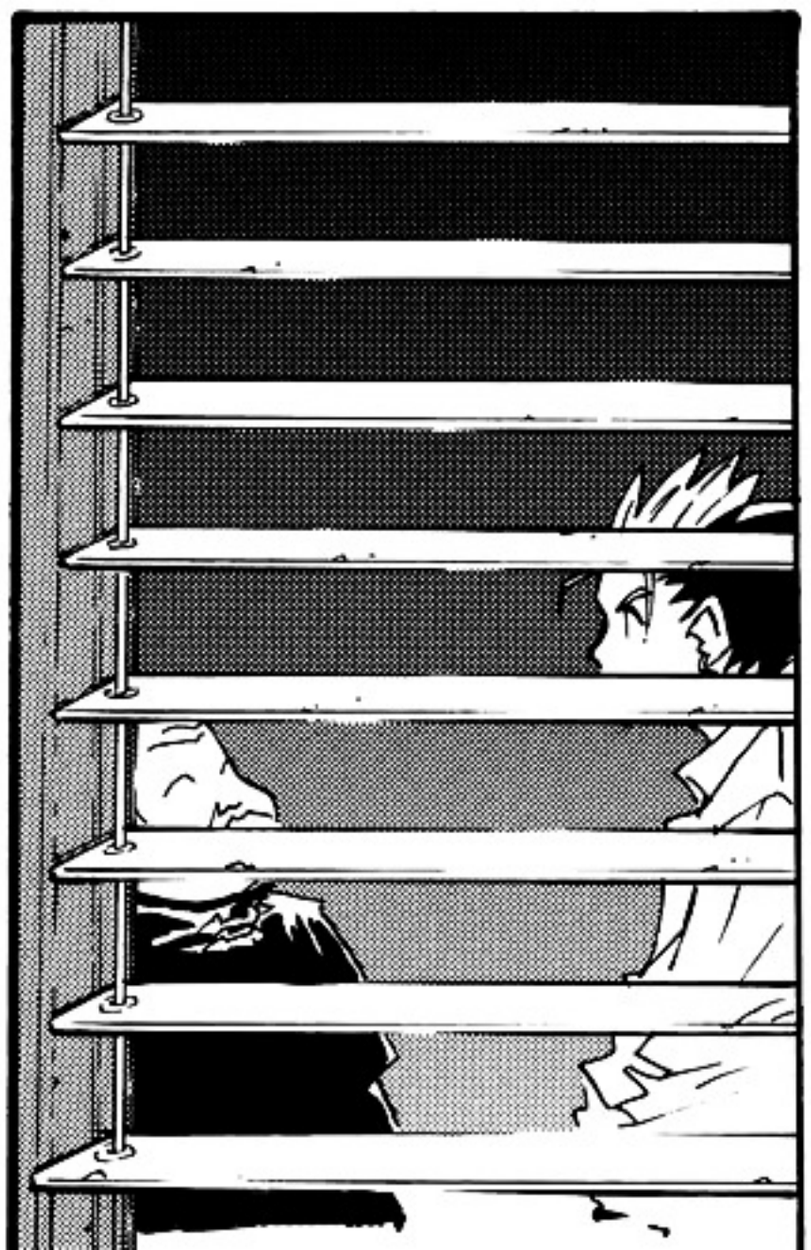
YOU'RE BRAD, AREN'T YOU?

OH, HEY.


...
...
I'M SORRY! FORGIVE ME!
OW OW OW OW OW OW!
YOU'RE THE HENCH-MAN!
WHAT'S WITH THE BIG, FANCY TALK ALL OF A SUDDEN?!


HUH?
...
...

I GOTTA BRING UP OUR EARLIER CONVER-SATION, AND-
HEY, NEEDLE-NOGGIN!



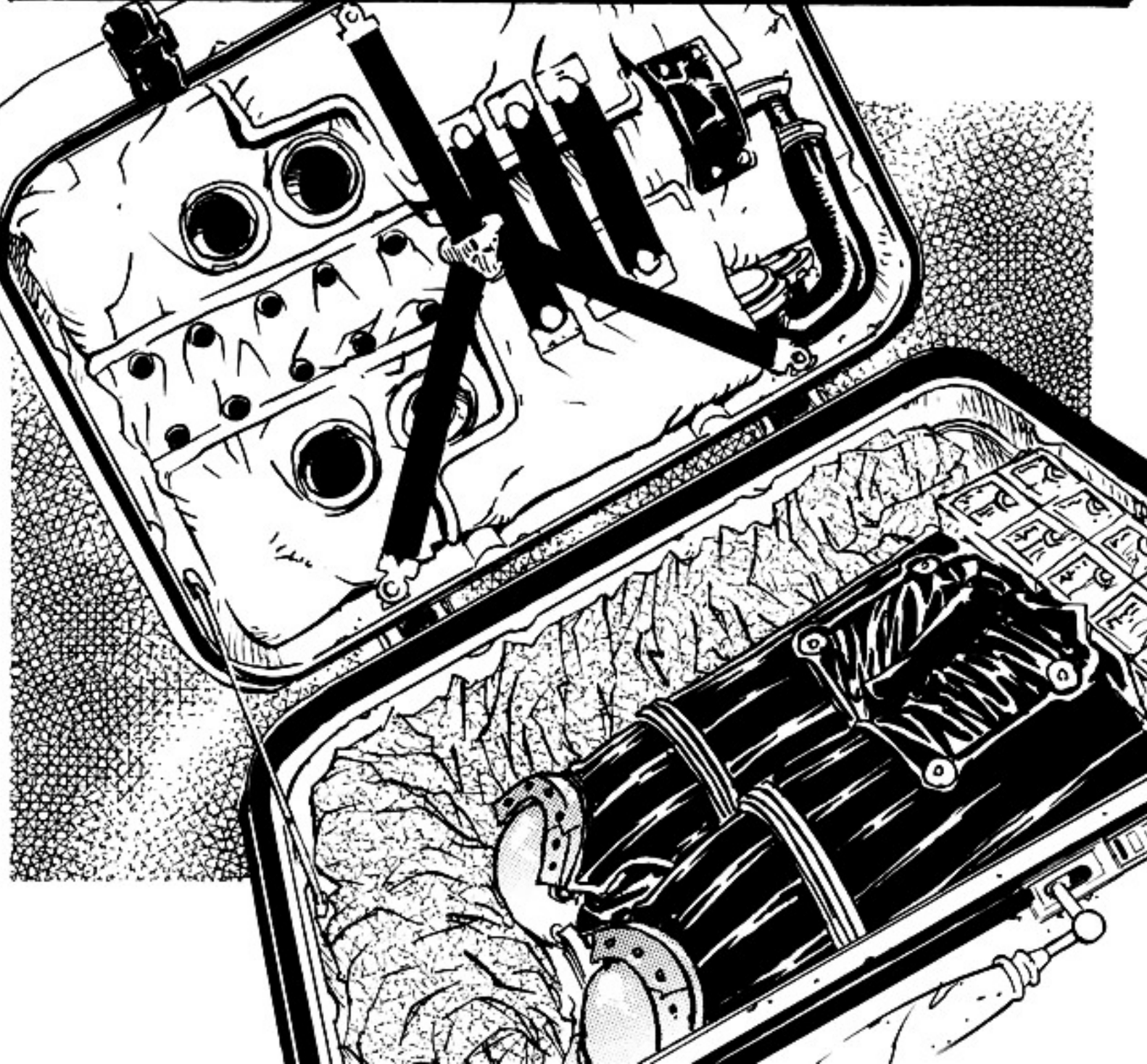
WHAT THE...
HE'S ALREADY GONE...

IT'S SO PEACEFUL, ALMOST LIKE TIME IS STANDING STILL.

SAME AS ALWAYS.
SO, HOW'S THE COLONY?

THANK YOU.

RECENTLY, KAIN HAS BEEN PERFECTING HIS CRAFT.



HE MADE YOUR EQUIPMENT THIS TIME, JUST LIKE THE LAST TIME.

I DON'T THINK WE HAVE A CHOICE, DO WE?
LOST TECHNOLOGY FOR LOST TECHNOLOGY.
NOW, NOW.
THIS EQUIPMENT'S *INCREDIBLE*... I ALMOST CAN'T WEAR IT...
SKILFULLY SEWN TO GUARANTEE EASE OF MOVEMENT.
HEAT RESISTANT, COLD RESISTANT, AND BULLET-PROOF, UNLIKE YOUR OLD SET.
WELL, I'M SURE TWO YEARS IS ONLY LIKE A BLINK OF AN EYE TO YOU.
STOP IT, BRAD.
HE'S NOT *THAT* KIND OF PERSON.
... ...
I'M SORRY.
EVERY-ONE'S BEEN WORRIED.
NO ONE'S *HEARD* FROM YOU FOR *OVER* TWO YEARS.

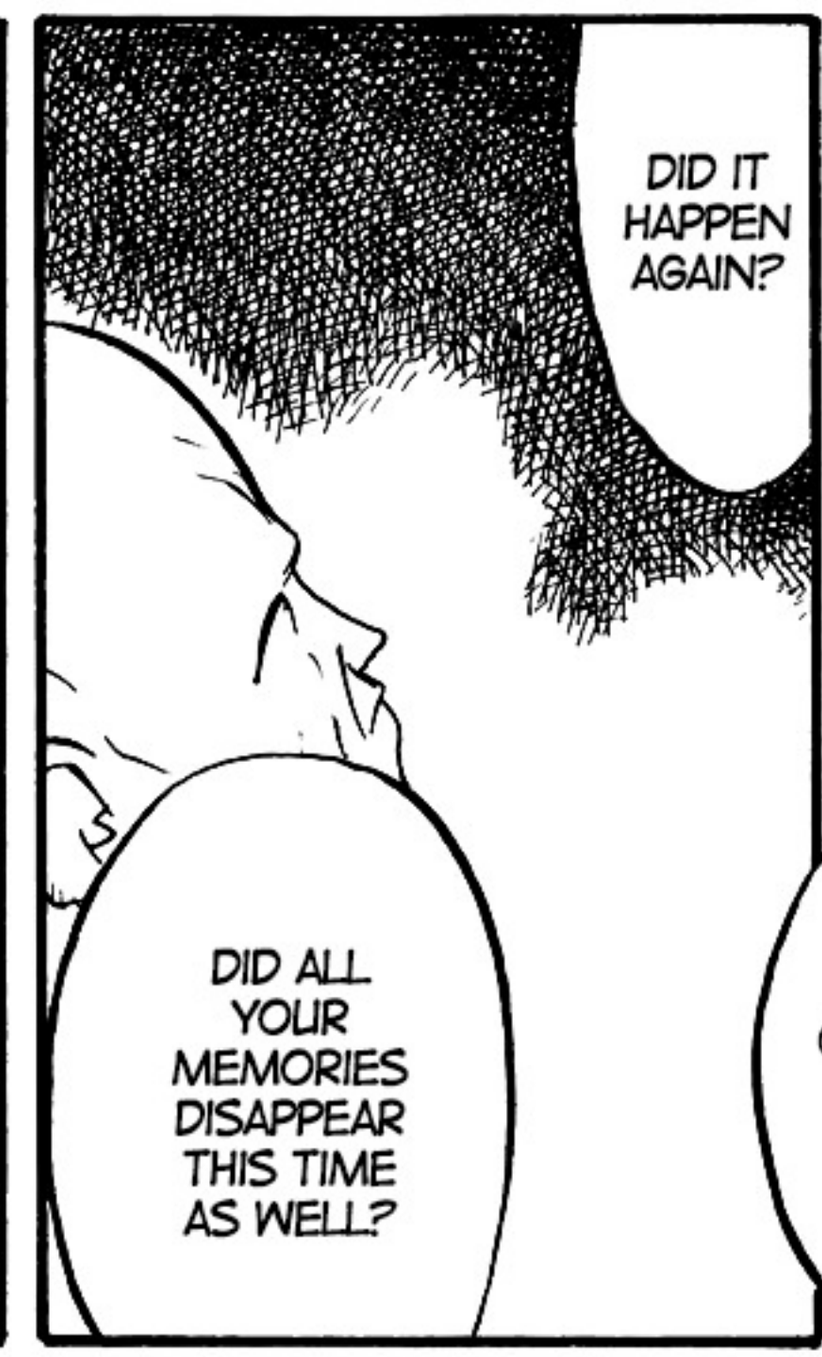
LET'S GET SOME OF THIS SORTED OUT.
YOUR CONFLICT WITH KNIVES HAS *YET* TO REACH ITS CONCLUSION.

YEAH, *RIGHT...*

...HMPH.
PERSON...

THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THEN AND THE DESTRUCTION OF JULY CITY ARE VERY *APPARENT.*
THE FIFTH MOON INCIDENT WAS YOUR *SECOND* ENCOUNTER WITH HIM, CORRECT?

...
...*NO.*


DID IT HAPPEN AGAIN?
DID ALL YOUR MEMORIES DISAPPEAR THIS TIME AS WELL?

...HEH.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT, DOC.

AFTER THAT, THE MEMORY BREAKS UP AND SCATTERS, BUT...
KNIVES...
HE REACHED HIS HAND OUT TO ME.
THERE'S STILL A FRAG-MENTED VISION...
...AND A DREADING, UNDENIABLE BELIEF DEEP IN MY MIND...
...THAT THE ONE...
...WHO CARVED THE HOLE IN THE FIFTH MOON...
WAS ME!

BOTH INCIDENTS WERE LIKELY THE RESULT OF THAT KNOWLEDGE.
I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS WHAT THEY ARE...
KNIVES KNOWS SECRETS ABOUT OUR BODIES THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
WELL?! DOESN'T IT?!
BRAD!
YEAH...
THAT MAY BE SO...
STOP IT, BRAD!
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU THE REAL DANGER TO HUMANITY HERE?!
HEY!
HEY! HEY! HEY!

...?!

WHY?!

WE HAVE *NO CHOICE* BUT TO DEPEND ON HIM.

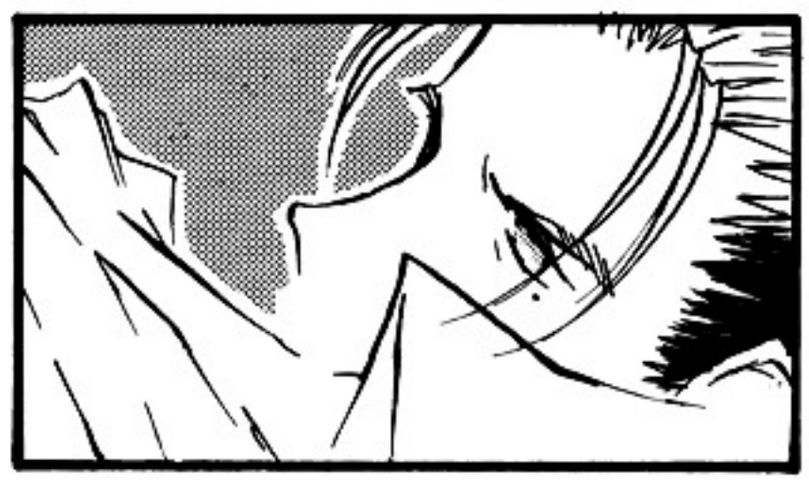
BUT...

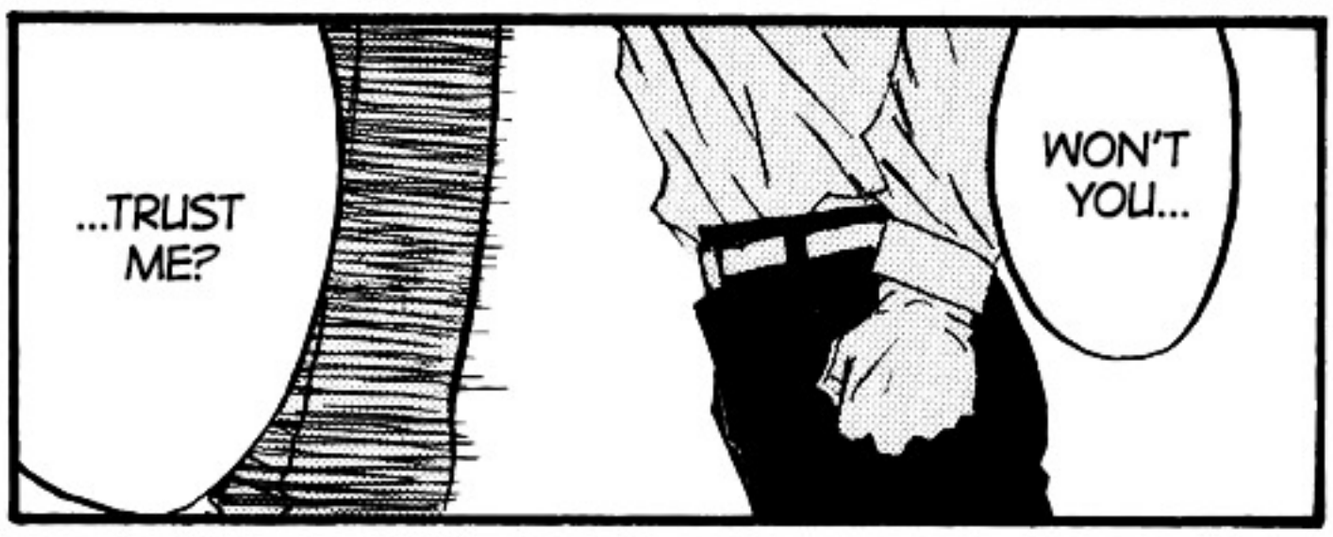
BRAD, WE'RE *ALREADY* AWARE OF THE RISK.

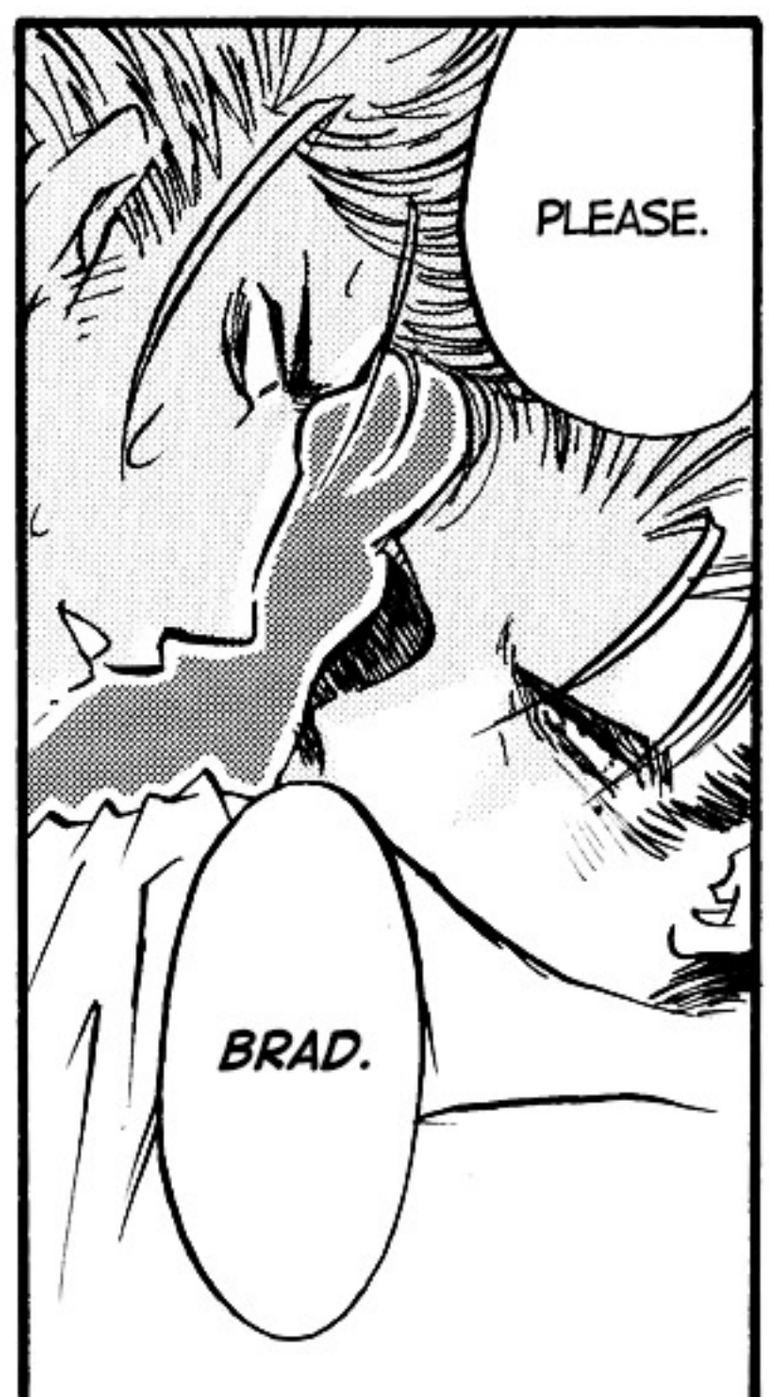
WHO THE *HELL* WOULD TAKE THAT KIND OF RISK--

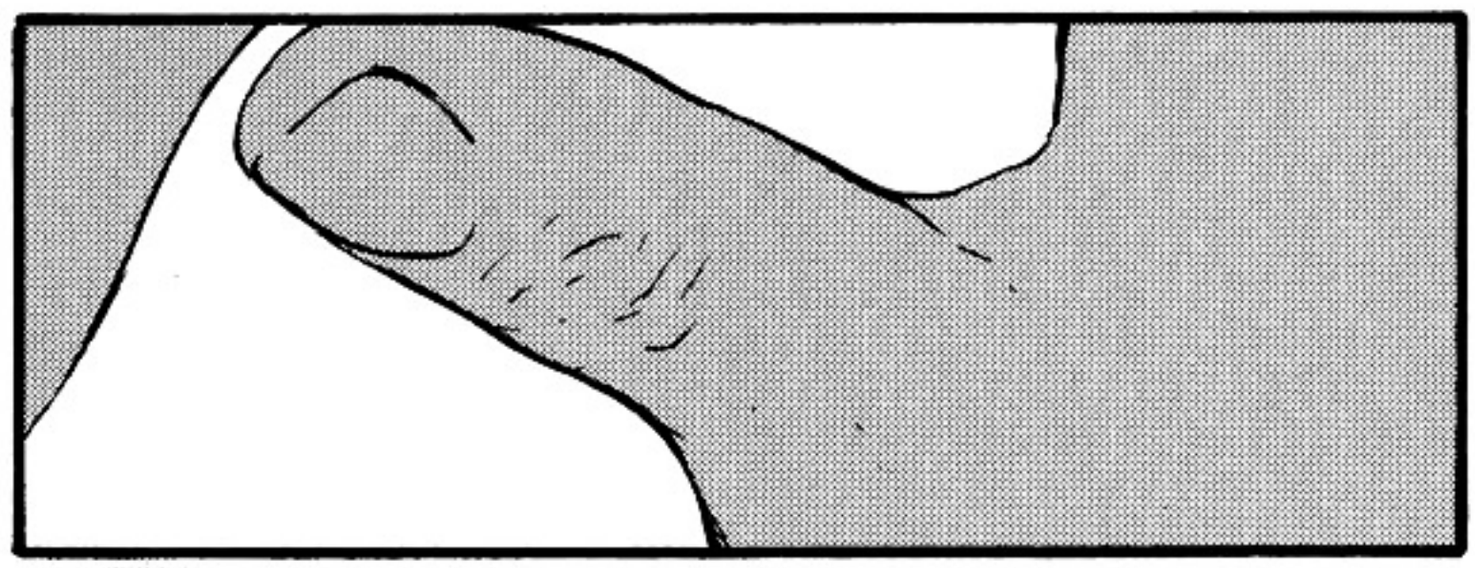
NO KIDDING!

THIS IS NO DAMN *JOKE!*







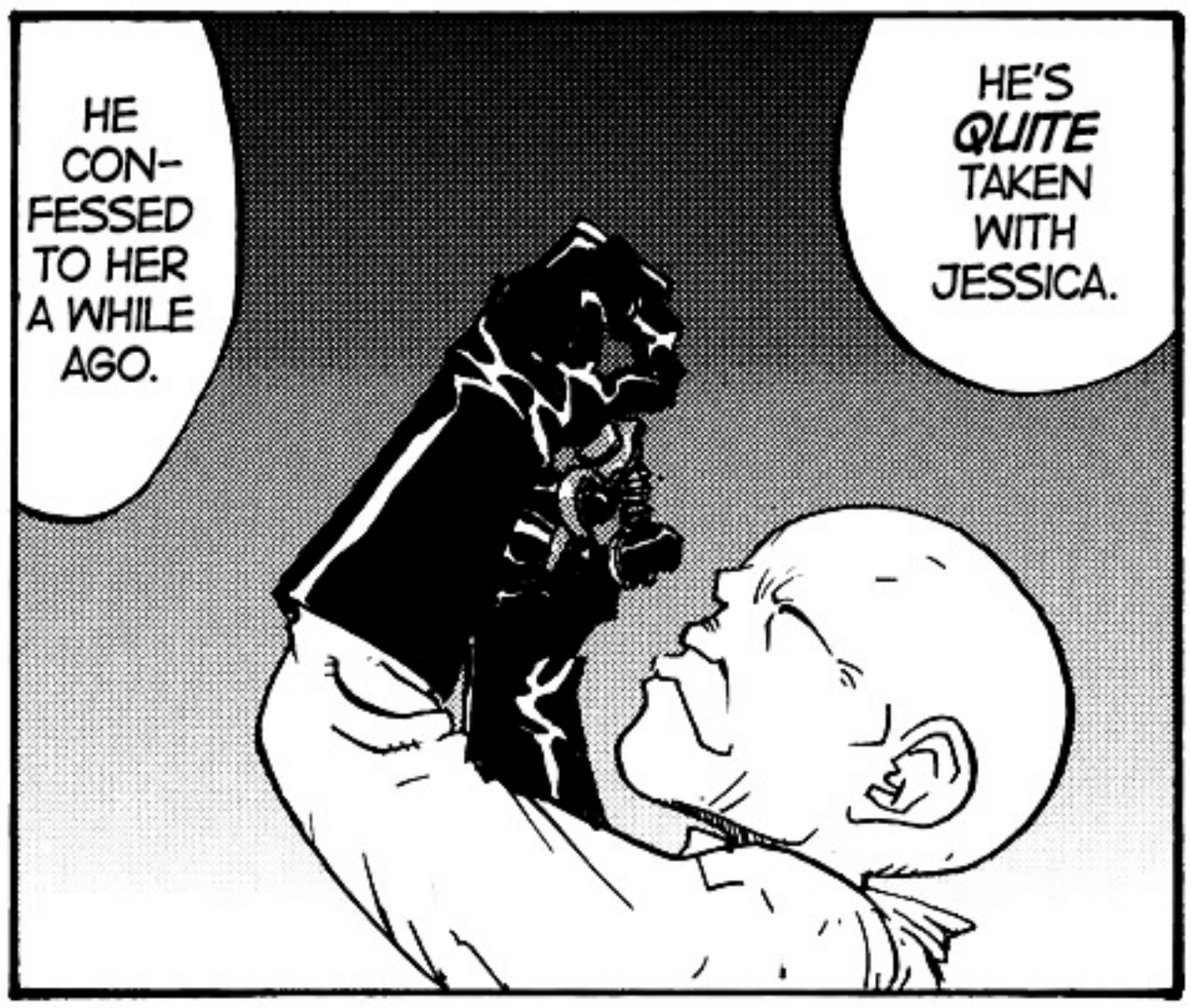


BUT YOU...
YOU HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED AT ALL.

"THE ONES WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF TIME", HUH?

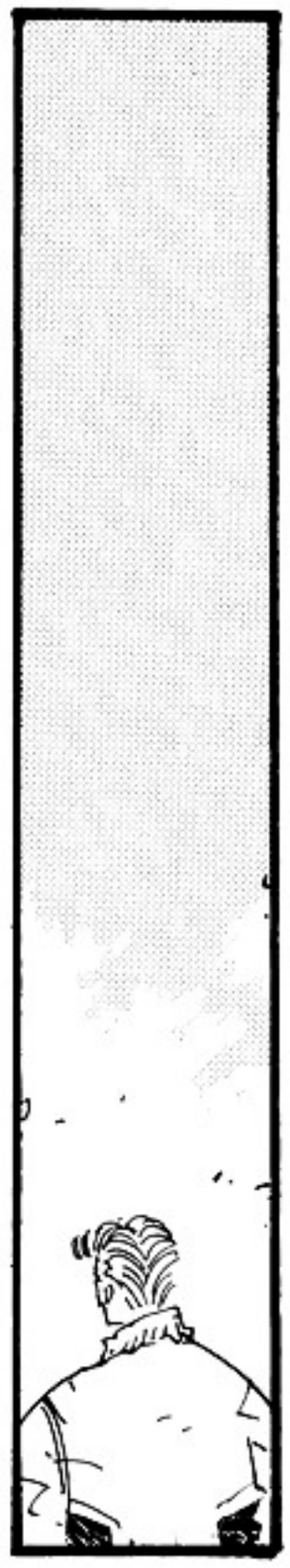
IN THIRTEEN YEARS...
...MY HANDS HAVE GROWN THIS BIG...

DAMN!
...
...!!
NAW...
I'M SORRY ABOUT BRAD...
...
...
EVERYONE IN THE OLDER GENERATIONS MAY TRUST YOU...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT CONVINC-ING ME!
YEAH...
FROM THE STANDPOINT OF A NORMAL HUMAN BEING, I MUST BE LIKE A MONSTER.
HALF OF HIM IS FRIGHT-ENED BY YOU.
COMING FACE-TO-FACE WITH A LEGEND WOULD UNSETTLE ANYONE.

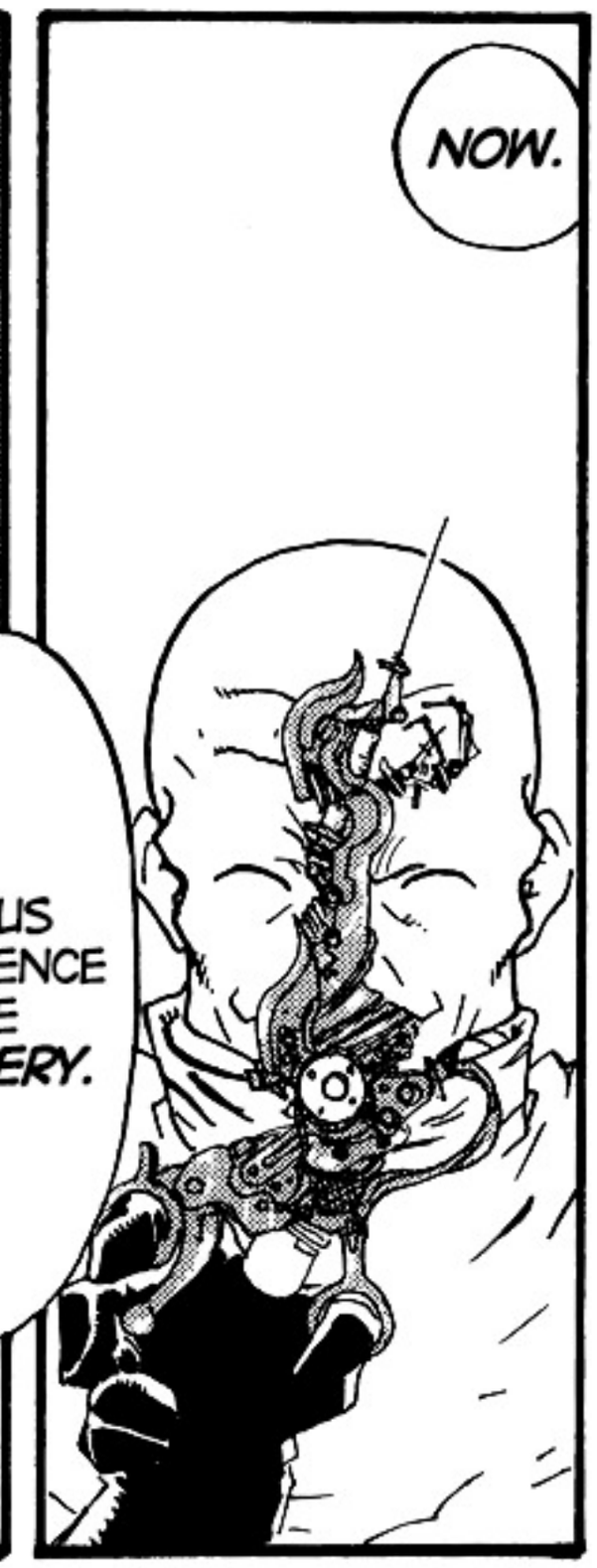

HE CON-FESSED TO HER A WHILE AGO.
HE'S *QUITE* TAKEN WITH JESSICA.

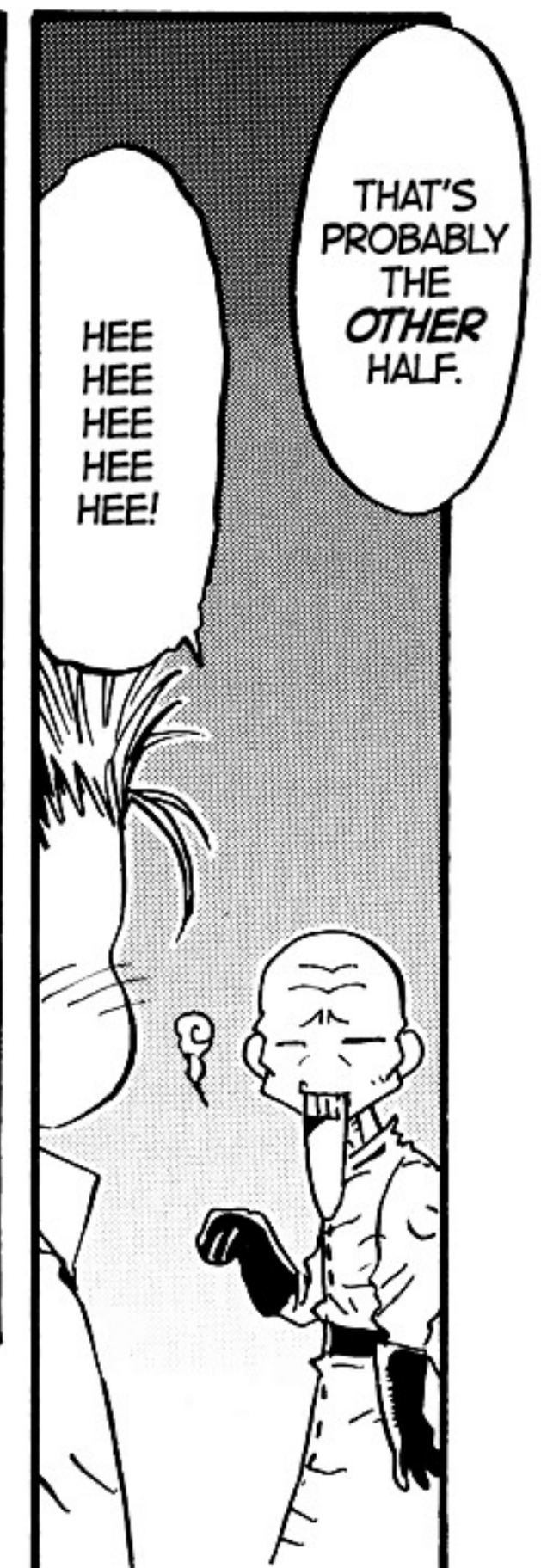
WELL...
THAT'S JUST THE *HALF* OF HIM.

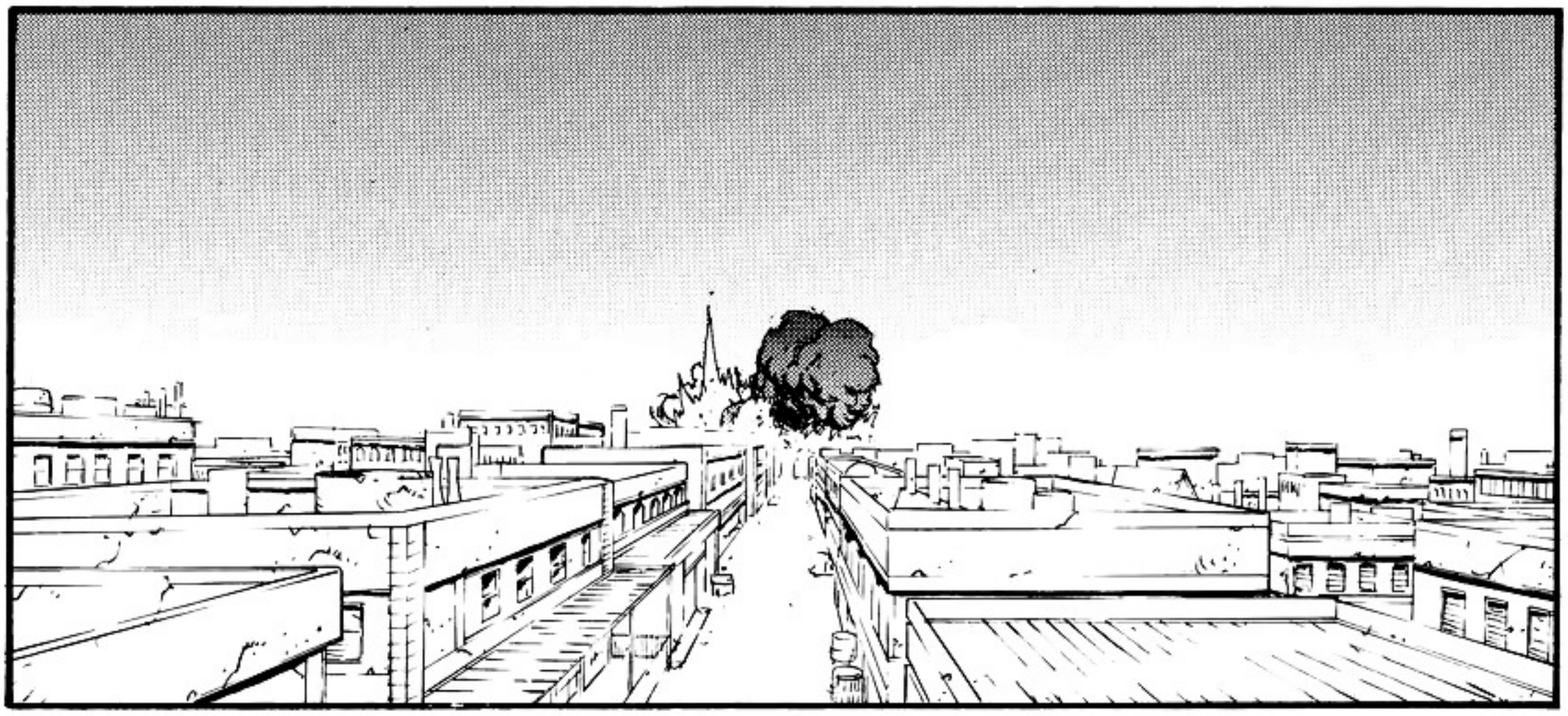
!!
I'M SORRY! BUT I'M GOING TO MARRY MR. VASH!

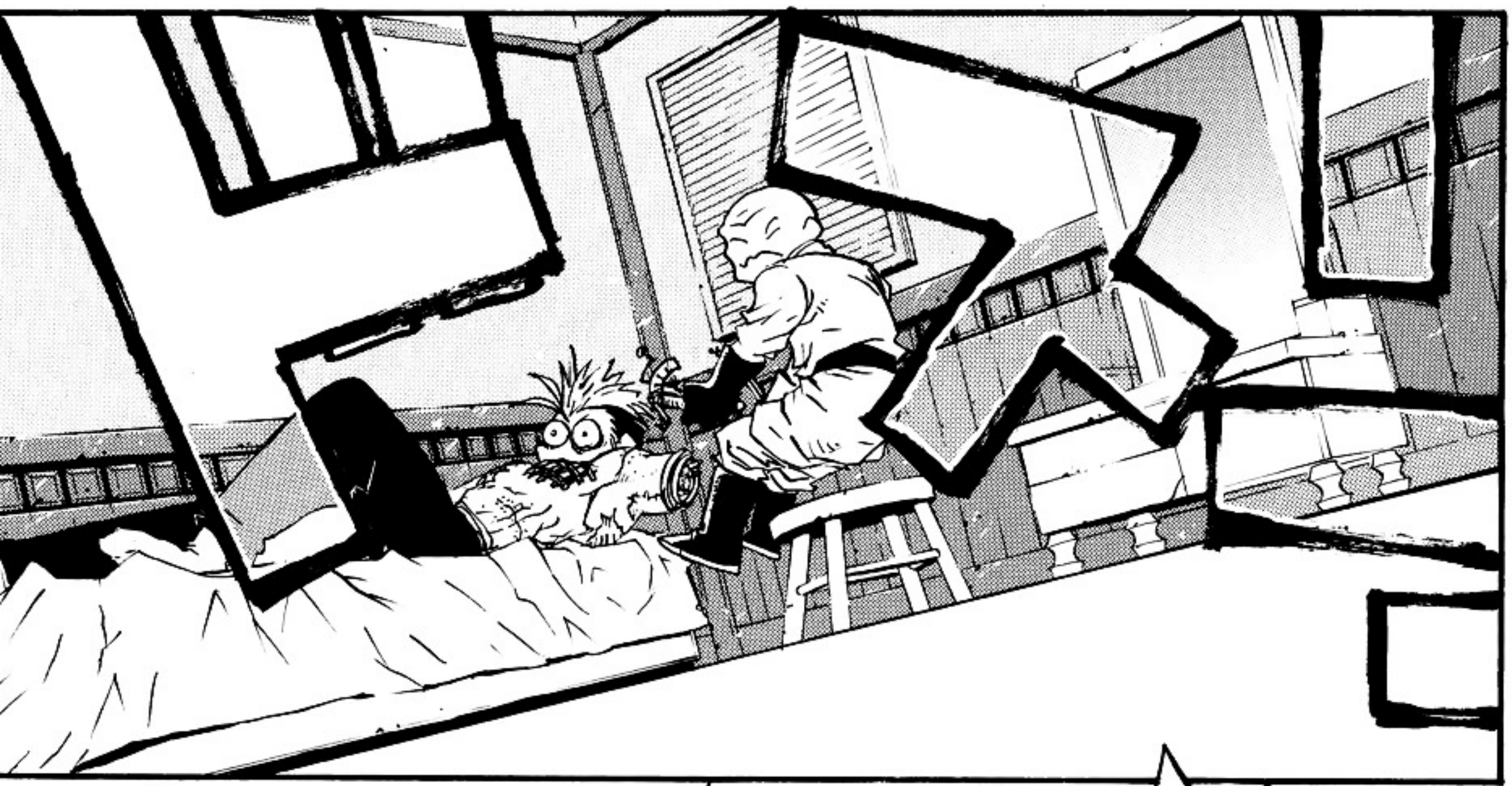


LET US COMMENCE THE *SURGERY.*

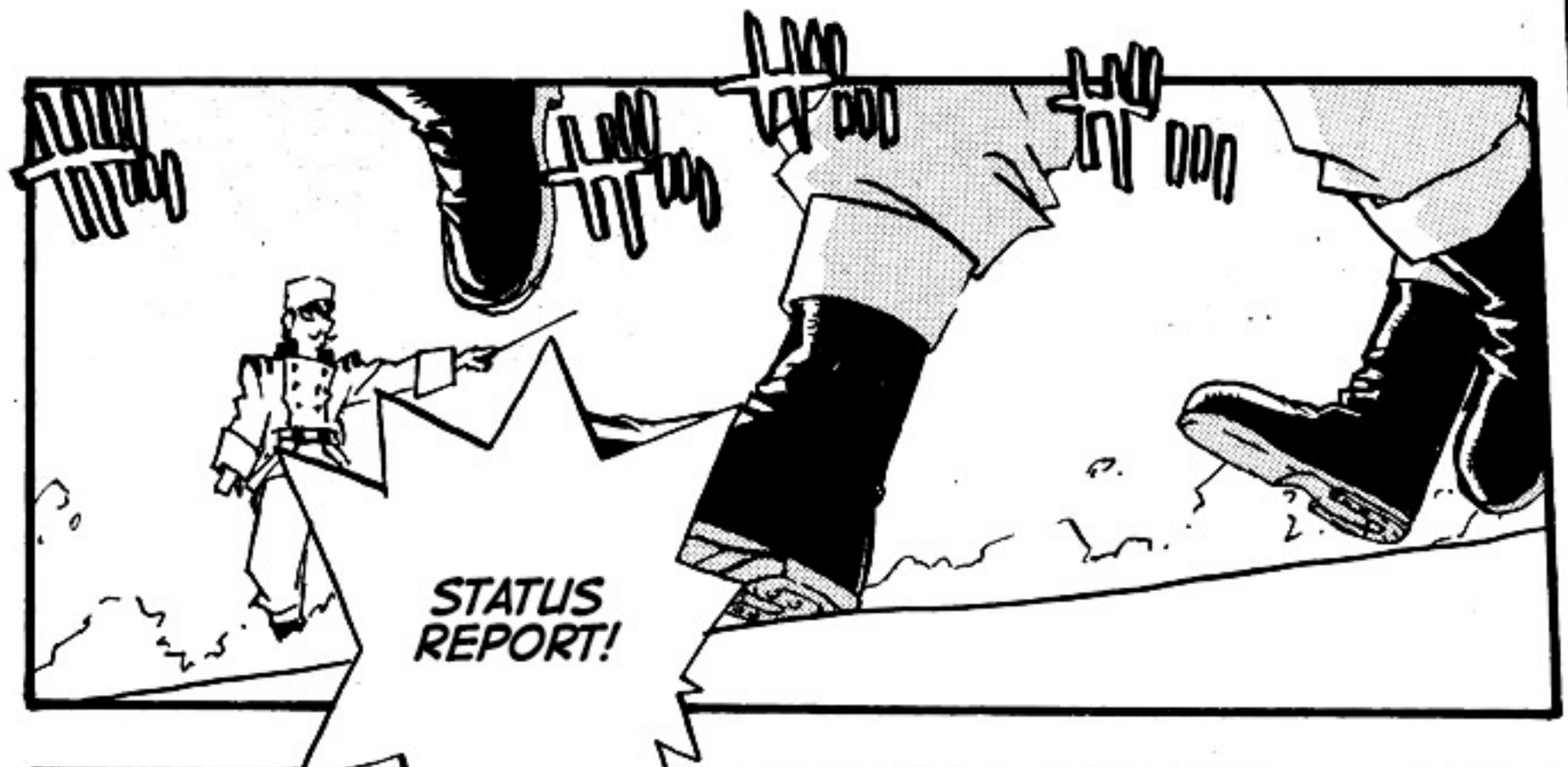

NOW.


THAT'S PROBABLY THE *OTHER* HALF.
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!





WH-
WHAT WAS THAT?!
GAAA!


STATUS REPORT!

カン
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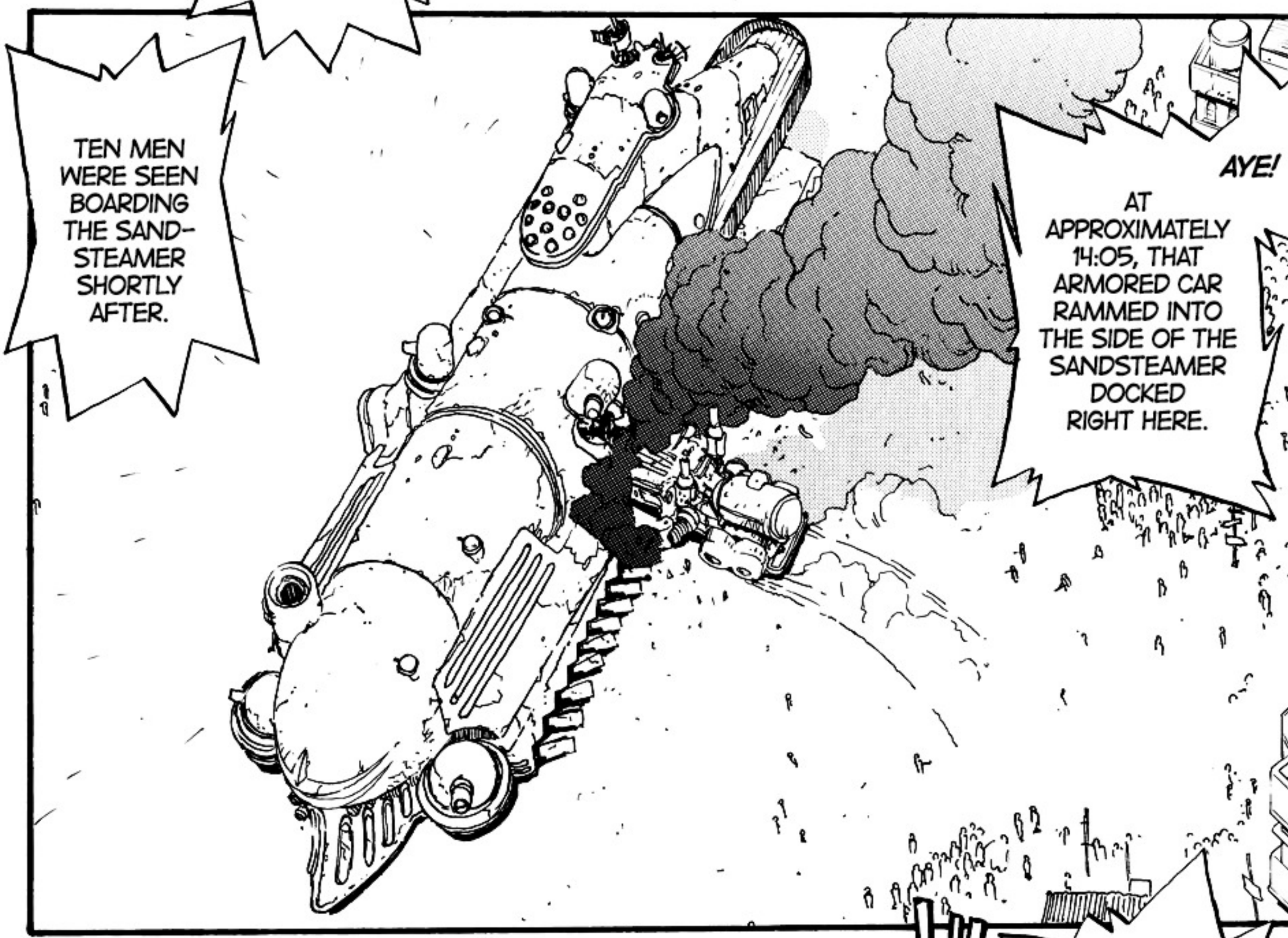
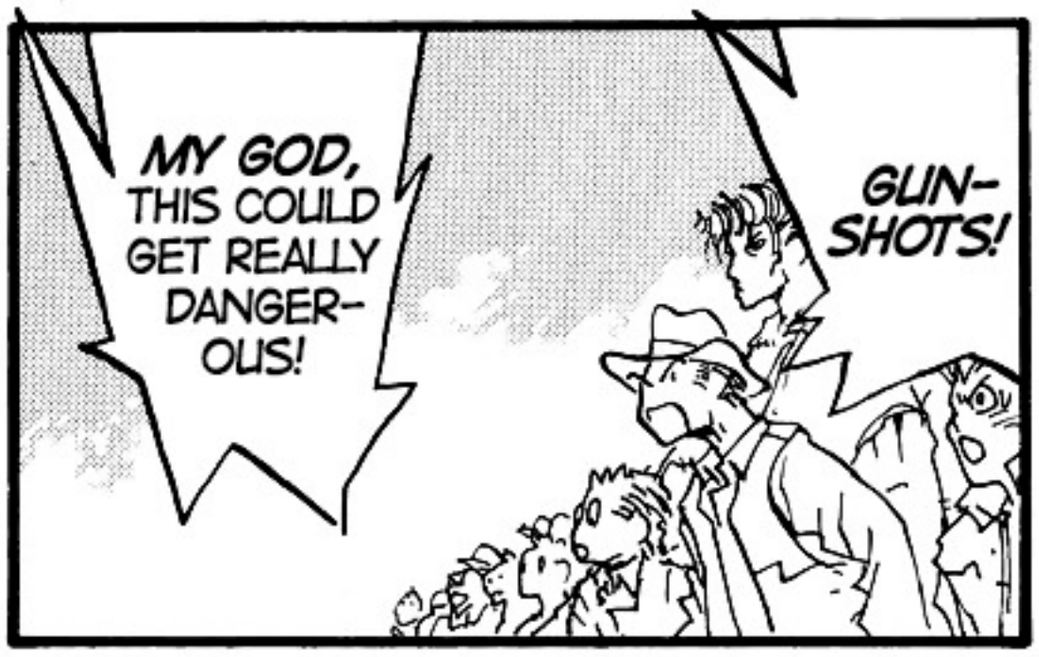
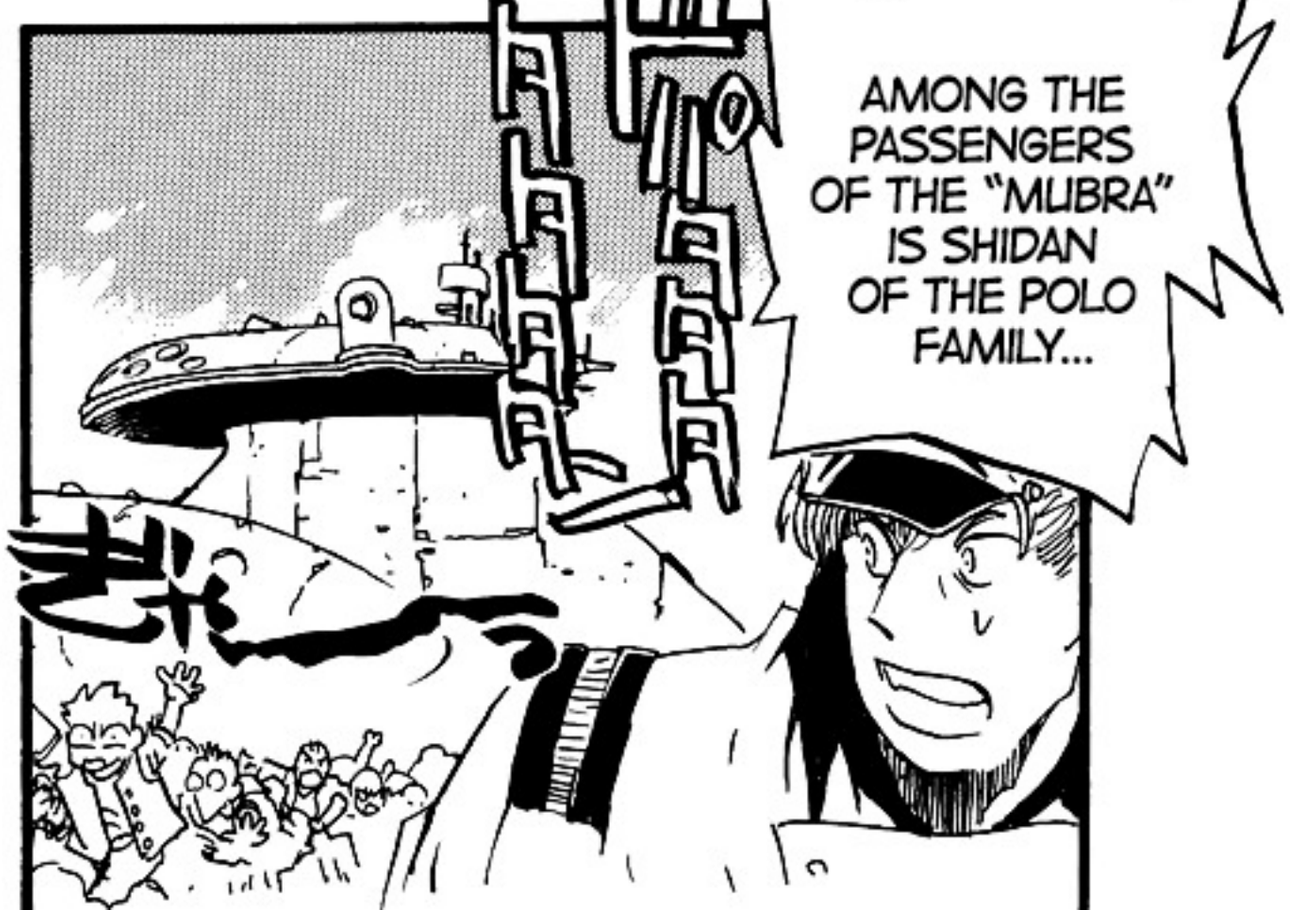

TEN MEN WERE SEEN BOARDING THE SAND-STEAMER SHORTLY AFTER.
AYE!
AT APPROXIMATELY 14:05, THAT ARMORED CAR RAMMED INTO THE SIDE OF THE SANDSTEAMER DOCKED RIGHT HERE.


MY GOD, THIS COULD GET REALLY DANGER-OUS!
GUN-SHOTS!


AMONG THE PASSENGERS OF THE "MUBRA" IS SHIDAN OF THE POLO FAMILY...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

AH!

HEY!

EEK!

?

'SCUSE ME!

PARDON ME! COMIN' THROUGH!

SHIT!

THESE OUTSIDERS ARE BARBAR-IANS!

OOH?

A SIEGE, HUH?

WELL, WELL. WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

OR BAD LUCK...

IT WAS SHEER LUCK THAT A DETACHMENT OF FEDERAL TROOPS ARRIVED HERE TODAY.

...

...

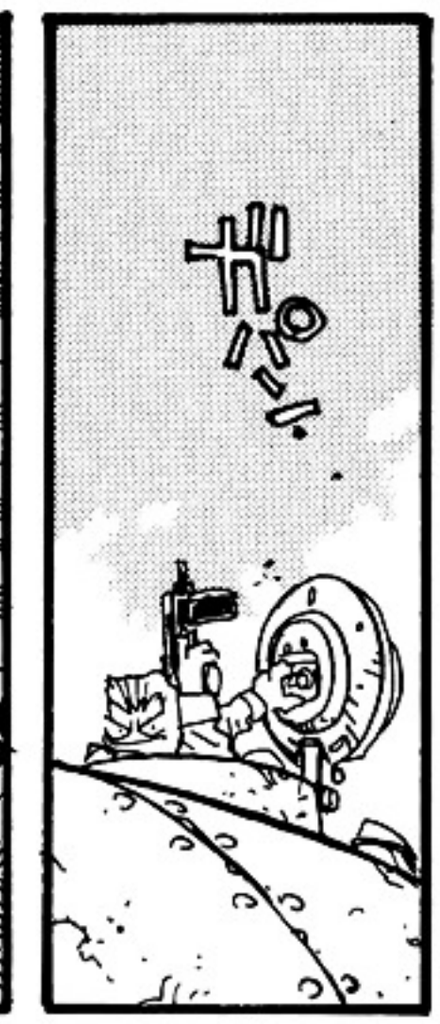
...SORT OF.

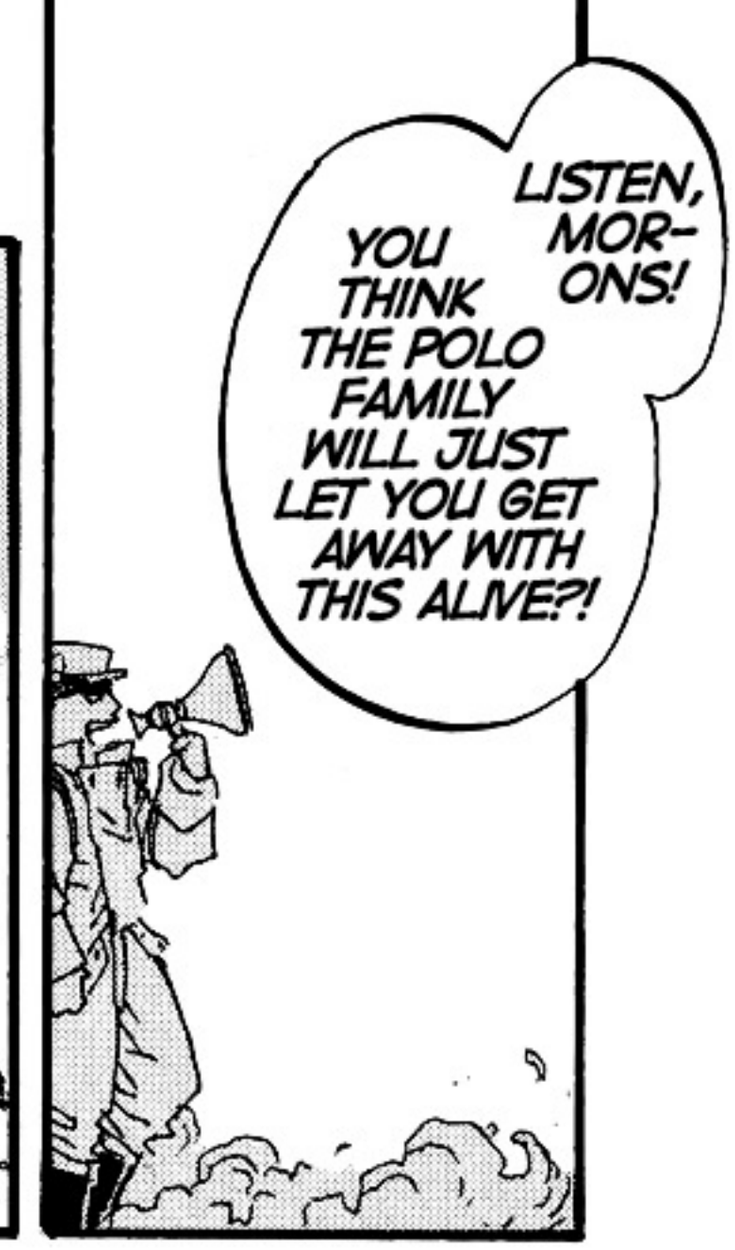
THE FEDS SURE SURROUNDED THAT STEAMER FAST.

LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND DISEMBARK THE SANDSTEAMER! IF YOU SURRENDER PEACEFULLY INTO OUR COSTUDY, YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED!

ATTENTION, CRIMINALS!

SHUT UP!
AAIIEE!
GAH!

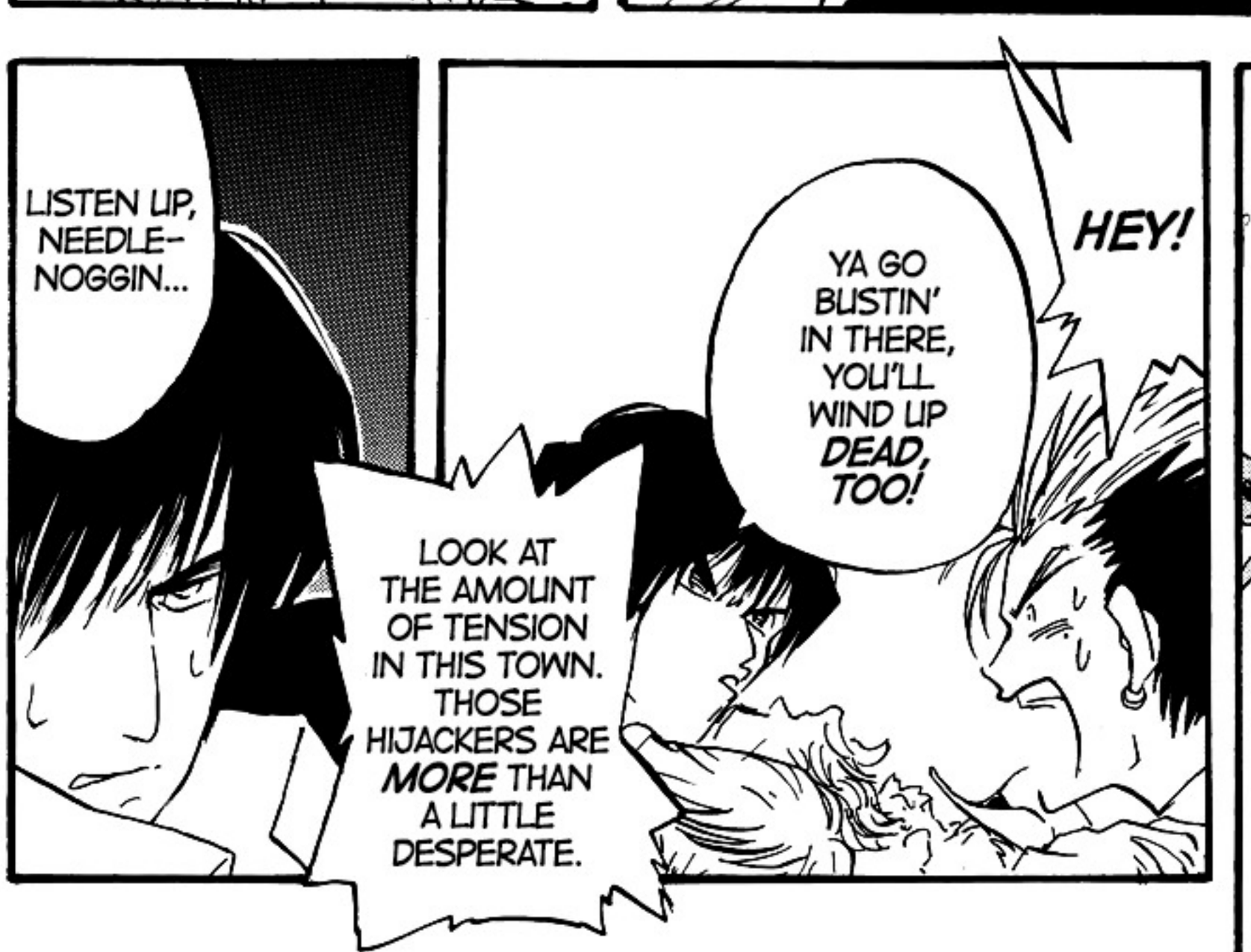



LISTEN, MOR-ONS!
YOU THINK THE POLO FAMILY WILL JUST LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS ALIVE?!

I GOTTA PUT AN END TO THIS MESS RIGHT AWAY.
THIS HAS GOTTEN OUT OF HAND QUICKLY.
WAIT A SEC, YA IDIOT!
W-WHAT ?!

WHERE THE HELL DID YA GO?!
HEY, NEEDLE-NOGGIN!

AH! AH! WAAH!
HUH?


LISTEN UP, NEEDLE-NOGGIN...
LOOK AT THE AMOUNT OF TENSION IN THIS TOWN. THOSE HIJACKERS ARE MORE THAN A LITTLE DESPERATE.
HEY!
YA GO BUSTIN' IN THERE, YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD, TOO!

YOU'LL GET BLOWN FULLA HOLES, DUMB-ASS!
PEOPLE ARE GONNA COME OUTTA THIS DEAD! THE ONLY QUESTION IS, HOW MANY!

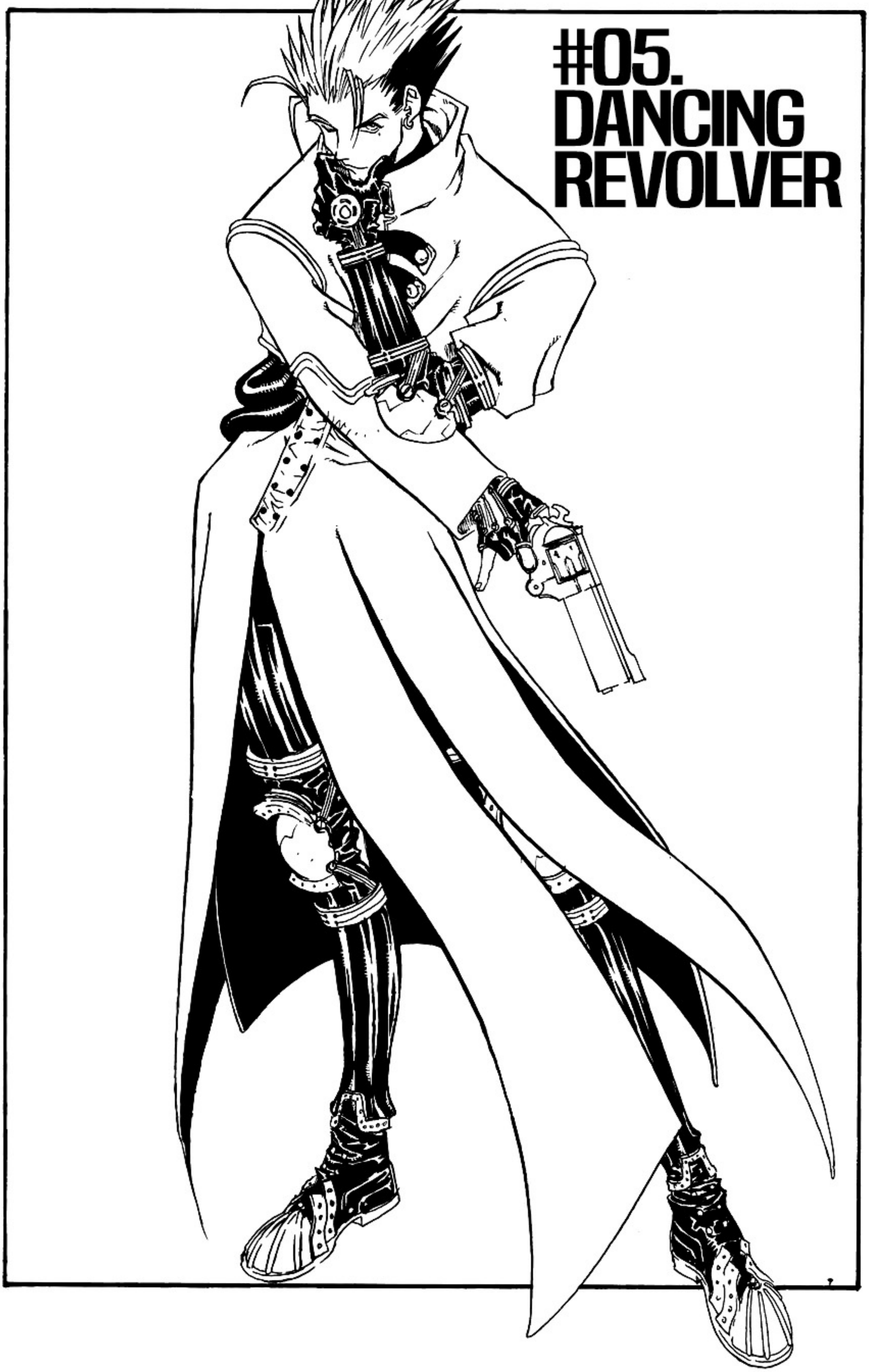
TODAY, PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE NOTHIN' MORE THAN A SERIES OF COMPLEX PROBLEMS.
THERE ARE CHOICES, COMPLICATED AND INEVITABLY CRUEL, AND ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME TO CHOOSE.
THE WORST THING YA CAN DO...
...IS DOIN' NOTHIN', WHILE YA WAIT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO ARISE.
WHILE YA SIT 'ROUND, TWIDDLIN' YER THUMBS, EVERYTHIN' GOES TO HELL!
THEN NOBODY'S SAVED!
YA CAN'T DECIDE NOT TO MAKE A CHOICE!
THINK SOMEONE WHO CAN'T KILL A MAN...
...CAN SAVE A MAN?!
WE'RE DIFFERENT FROM GOD. WE AREN'T OMNI-POTENT.
IN THE END, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BECOME DEMONS.
WOLF-WOOD...
THOSE ARE MERELY WORDS.

I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO STAND BY AND DO NOTHING!
RIGHT NOW, PEOPLE MAY BE DYING OVER THERE.
THAT...
THAT RED COAT!
HEY!

WE DON'T NEED YOU STIRRING IT UP EVEN MORE, YOU DISASTER-PRONE FREAK!
THIS TOWN IS ALREADY ON PINS AND NEEDLES.
WOULD YOU TWO KNOCK IT OFF?!
...
...
WHAT?
...
...
SNORT!
STIRRING IT UP?!
DISASTER-PRONE?! ME?!
THAT'S IT!
"THAT'S IT"?!
HEY! WAIT A DAMN MINUTE!
DON'T YOU-!

AAAH!
VASH THE STAM-PEEEE EEEDE !!!
MY NAME IS
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE TRYING TO DO NOW?!
WHAT THE HELL...
GASP!
I HAVE SUDDENLY DECIDED THAT IT'S TIME FOR A MASSACRE, FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON AT ALL!

#04. HERO RETURNS / END



#05. DANCING REVOLVER

FLO...
WER...

RED...
FLOWER...

THIS ONE IS CALLED A *GERANIUM*.

IT'S *PRETTY*, ISN'T IT?

CAN YOU EAT THEM?

...
...

YOU CAN EAT *SOME* FLOWERS.

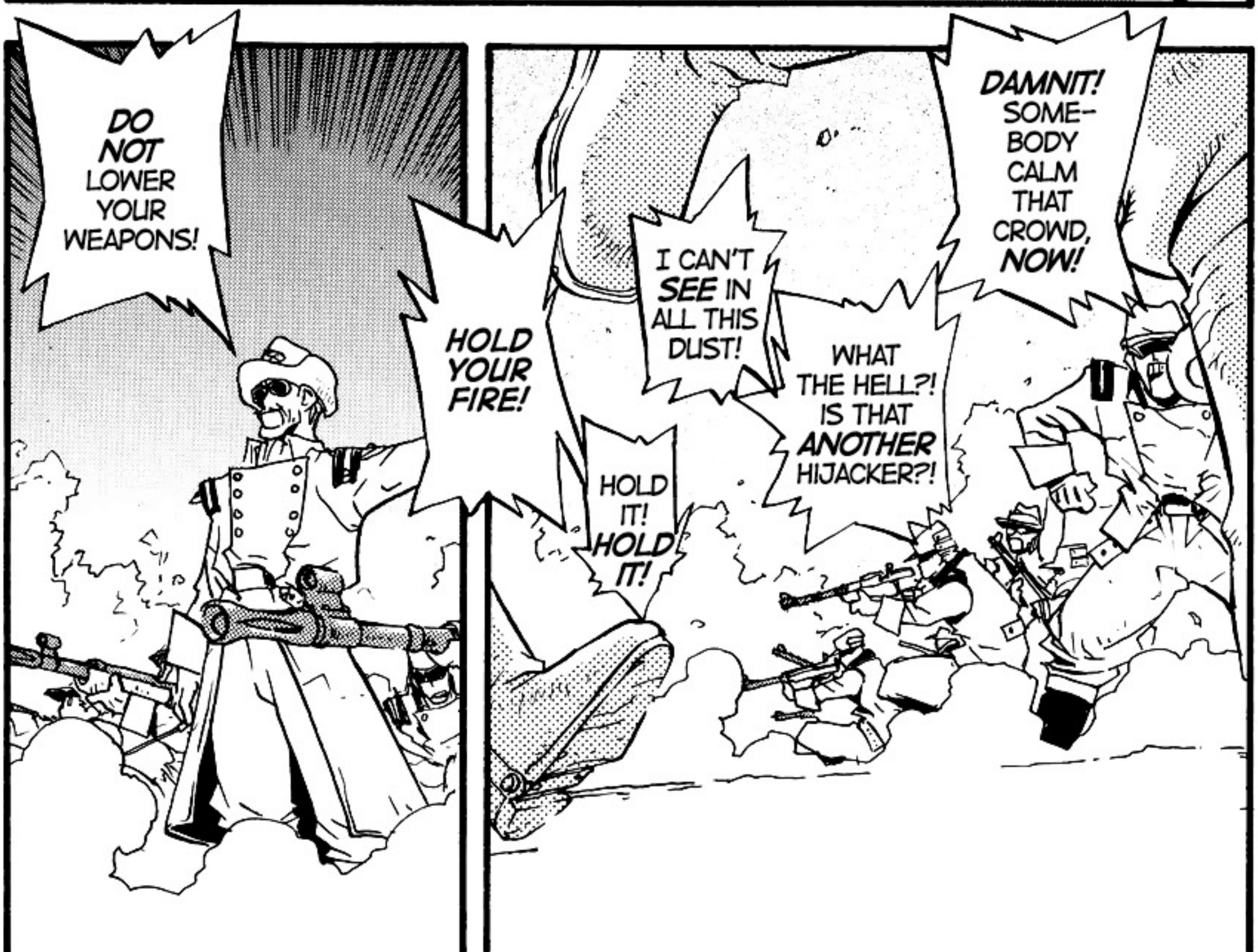
HMMM...

BACK ON EARTH, THERE ARE *LOTS* AND *LOTS* OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF FLOWERS.

PEOPLE THINK OF THEM AS VERY PRECIOUS THINGS.

YOU KNOW, GERANIUMS HAVE ANOTHER MEANING.
THIS ONE ISN'T THE BIGGEST, BUT I REALLY LIKE THE ONES THAT BLOOM THE BRIGHTEST IN THE WILD.
RED FLOWERS ARE USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH LOVE AND AFFECTION.
YES, I LIKE IT A LOT!
REM...
...DO YOU LIKE THIS FLOWER?
IN THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS, THE GERANIUM STANDS FOR...
DETERMINATION.

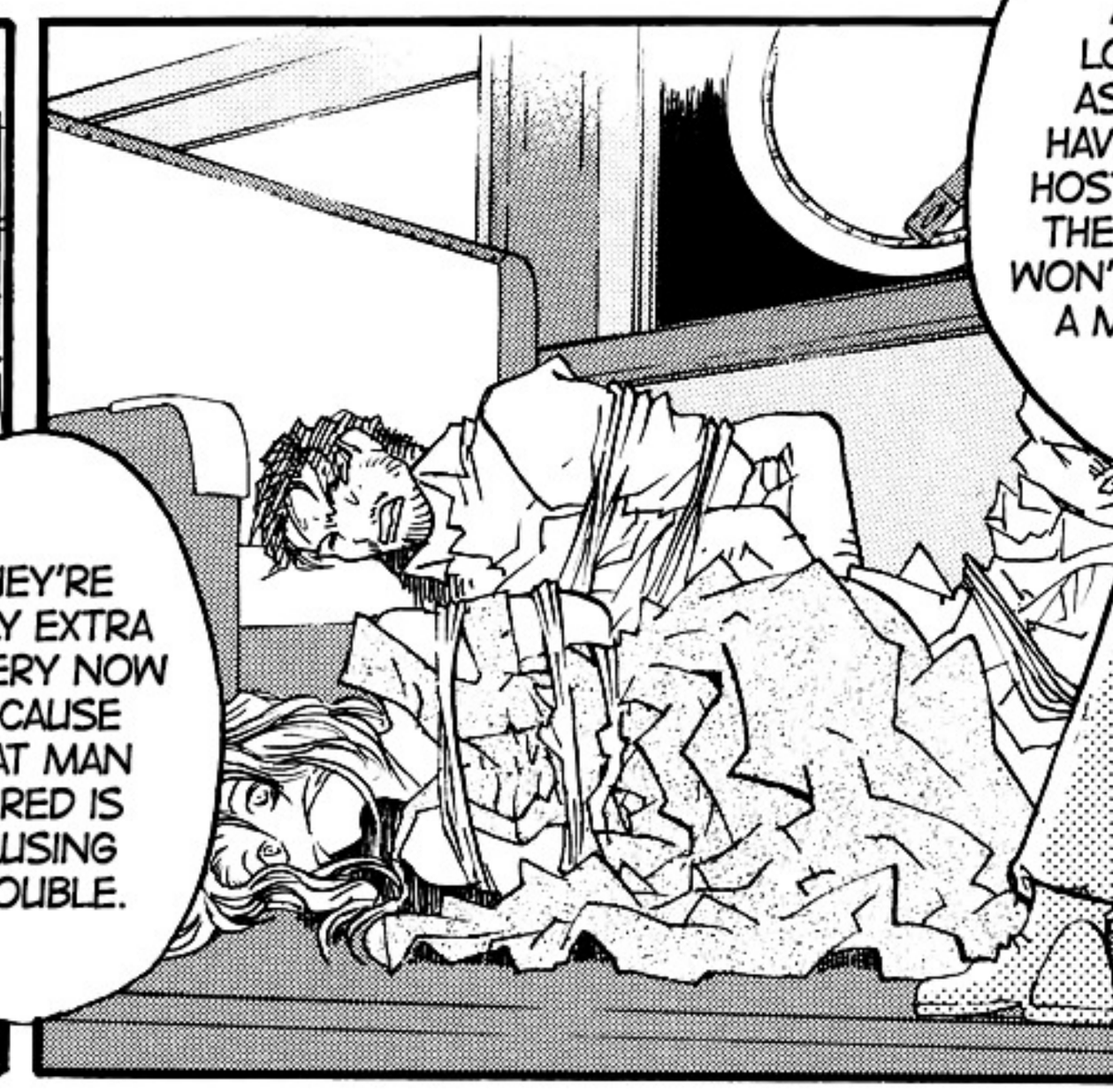
...
...
HMPH!


DO NOT LOWER YOUR WEAPONS!
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
HOLD IT! HOLD IT!
I CAN'T SEE IN ALL THIS DUST!
WHAT THE HELL?! IS THAT ANOTHER HIJACKER?!
DAMNIT! SOME-BODY CALM THAT CROWD, NOW!

THE PLAN STAYS THE SAME.
WHAT DIFFER-ENCE WOULD IT MAKE?
THINK HE'S THE REAL DEAL?
VASH THE STAMPEDE?!
IF HE IS, THEN WHY THE HELL WOULD THEY BE AIMING AT HIM TOO?
HE THE FEDS' BACK-UP?!
SO THAT MAN IN RED'S THE ONE WHO'S BEEN SHOOTING?
BESIDES...
IN THIS KIND OF SCENARIO, ONE BULLET CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE OR DEATH.
DON'T WASTE YOUR AMMO.
WAIT.
HE'S A PAIN IN THE ASS. SHOULD I TAKE HIM OUT?

HEY, YOU THERE.

THEY'RE ONLY EXTRA JITTERY NOW BECAUSE THAT MAN IN RED IS CAUSING TROUBLE.

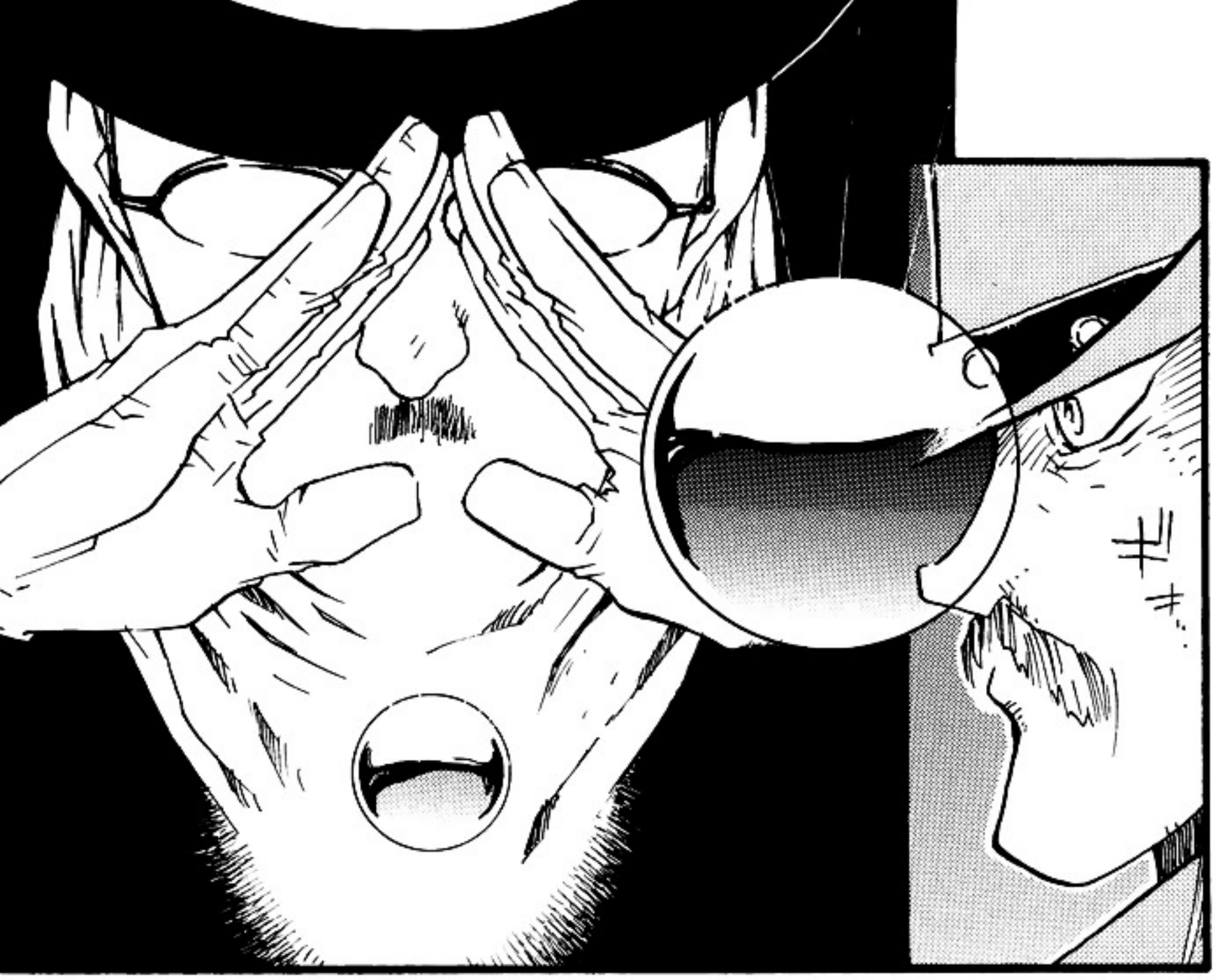

AS LONG AS WE HAVE THE HOSTAGES, THE FEDS WON'T MAKE A MOVE.

GUH...

...
...

CALM DOWN BEFORE YOU EXPLODE.
YOU'RE *TOO* TENSE.

YEAH, EVEN WHEN HE KNOWS SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO GO DOWN.
TYPICAL LURALIDE. *NOT A BEAD* OF SWEAT ON HIM.



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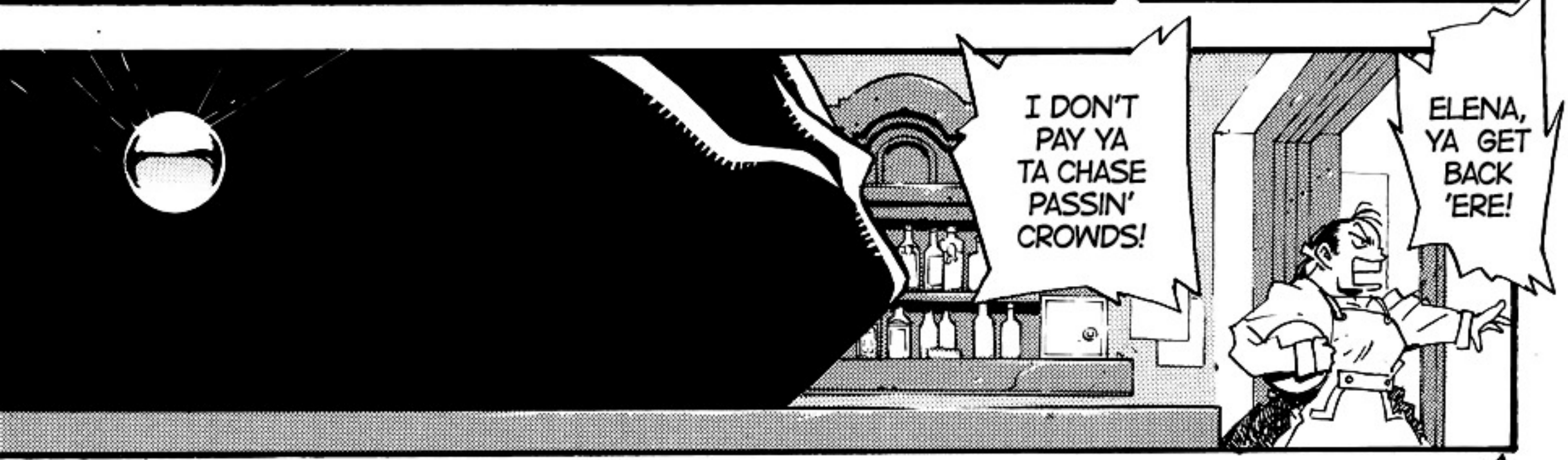

I DON'T PAY YA TA CHASE PASSIN' CROWDS!
ELENA, YA GET BACK 'ERE!

NEEDLE-NOGGIN...
YOU...

TOTAL SLAUGHTER
TOTAL SLAUGHTER
WON'T LEAVE A SINGLE MAN ALIIIVE

BUT, MA'AM, HAVEN'T YOU *HEARD?!*
THEY SAY IT'S *VASH THE STAMPEDE!*
WHAT'RE YA TALKIN' 'BOUT, STUPID GIRL?! GET BACK 'ERE OR I'LL FIRE YER BUTT!

LET'S BEGIIIN

THE KILLING TIIIIME!

DI DI LA DA DIE GEN-O-CIIIDE

DI DI LA DA DUD AN OCEAN OF BLOOOOD

HEY!

YOU'VE *COMPLETELY* LOST YER MARBLES!

DON'T ANTAGONIZE HIM!

DON'T!

GASP!

HE'S... HE'S SINGING?!

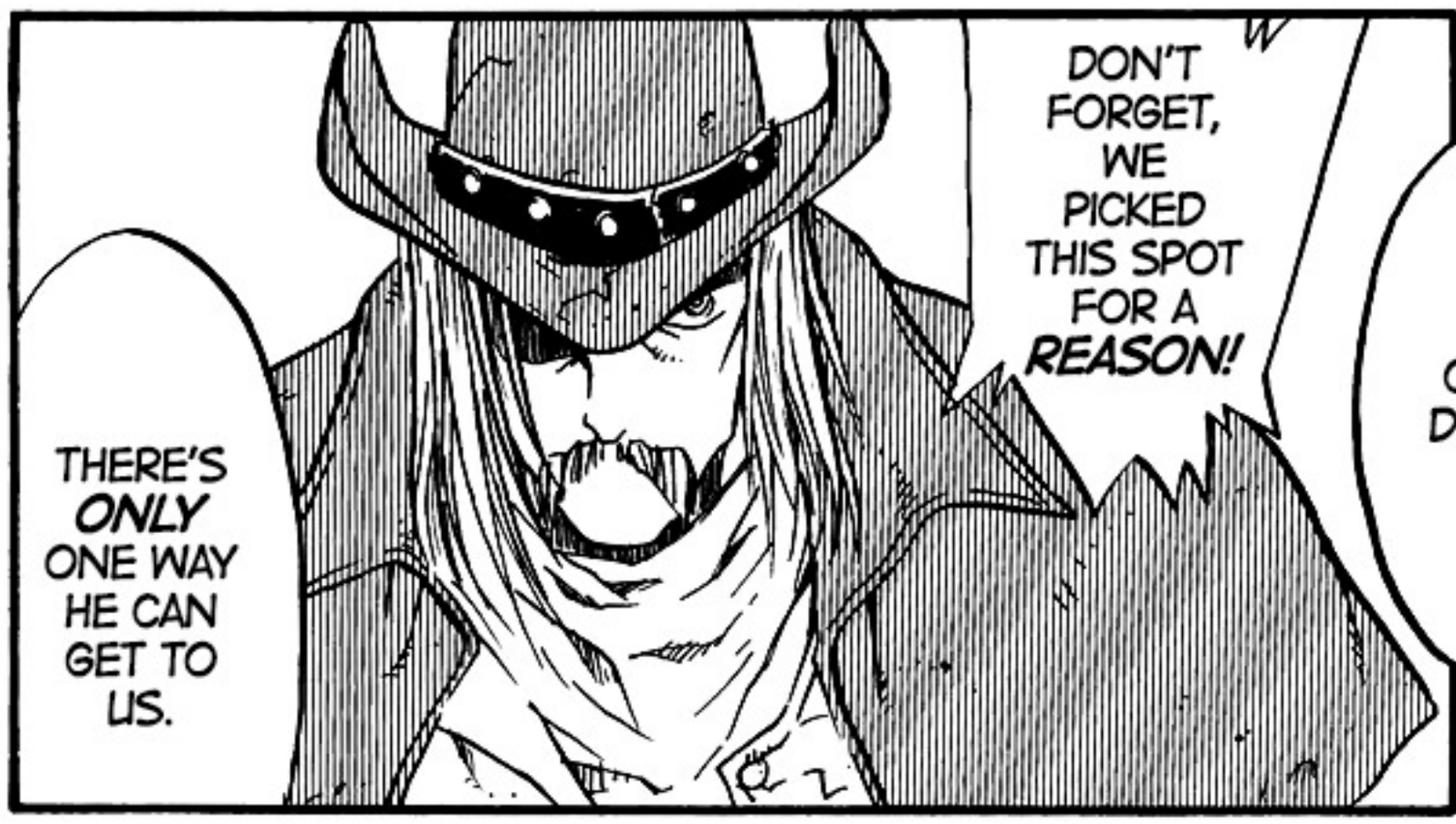
AND HERE WE...

GO!!

HE'S...
?!
HE'S GONE?!

HE'S COMING!
MEN, GET IN POSITION!
HUH?
...
...
...!!

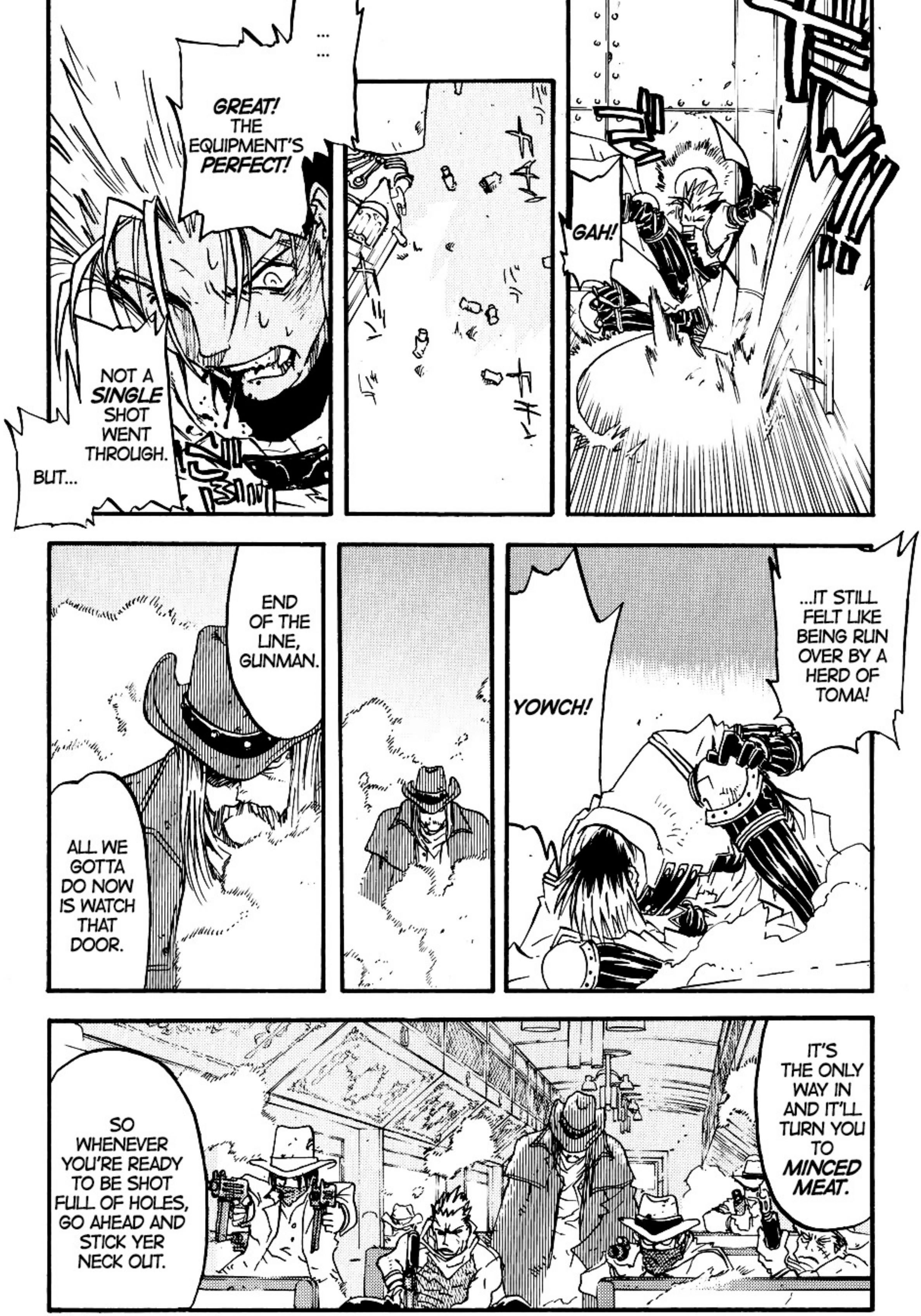
ACK!
AHH!
GAH!


THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY HE CAN GET TO US.
DON'T FORGET, WE PICKED THIS SPOT FOR A REASON!

CALM DOWN!
I KNEW IT! HE'S WITH THE FEDS!

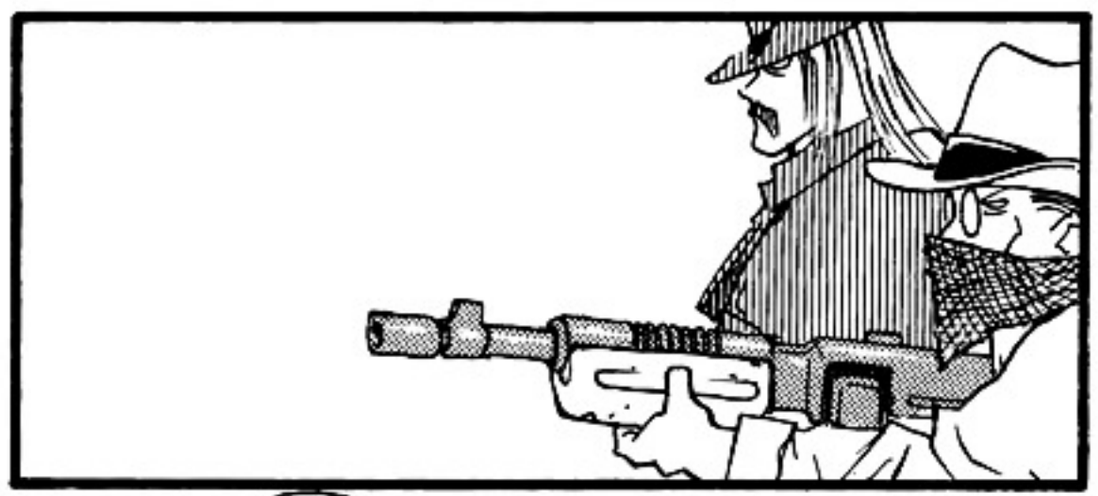
THAT WAY...
...
...
FIRST-CLASS CABIN
!!

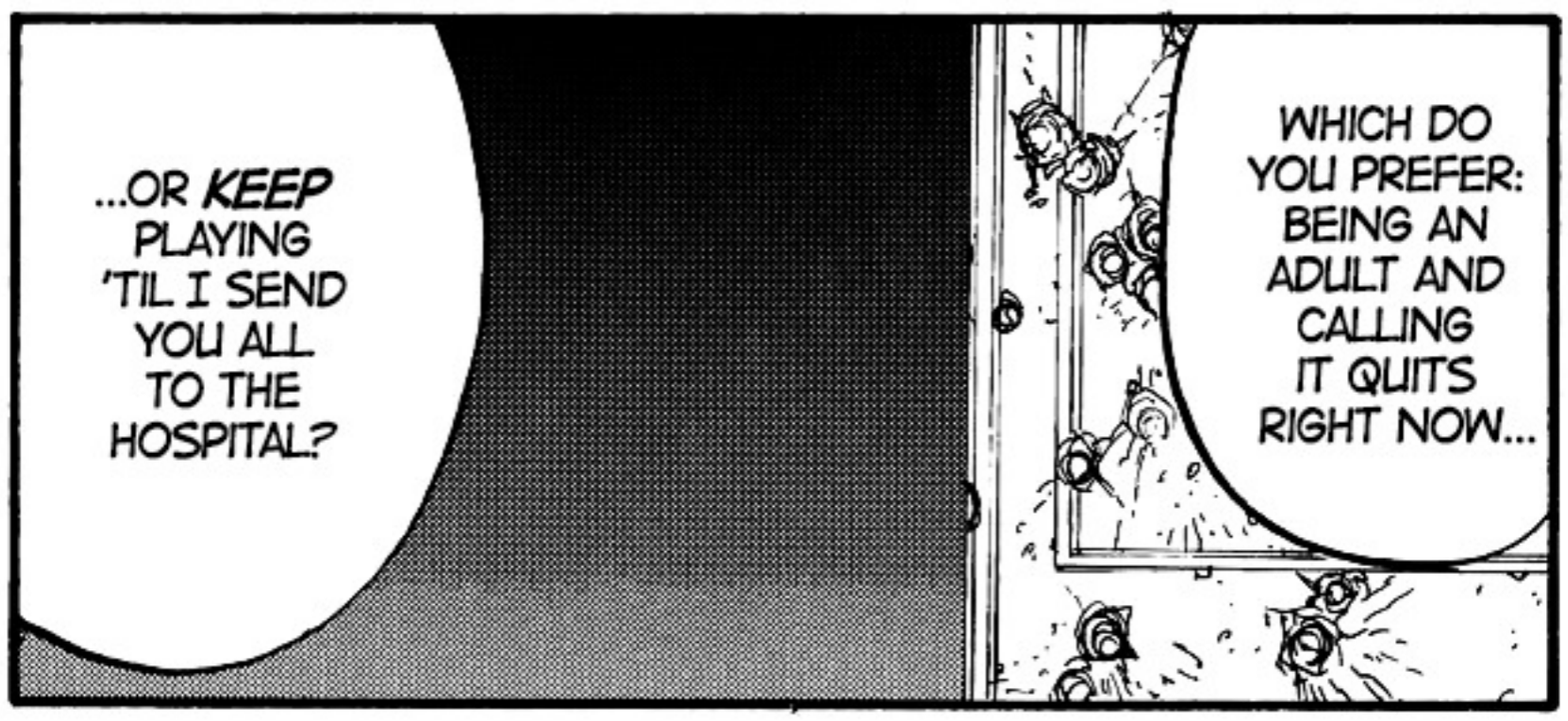
FIRE!

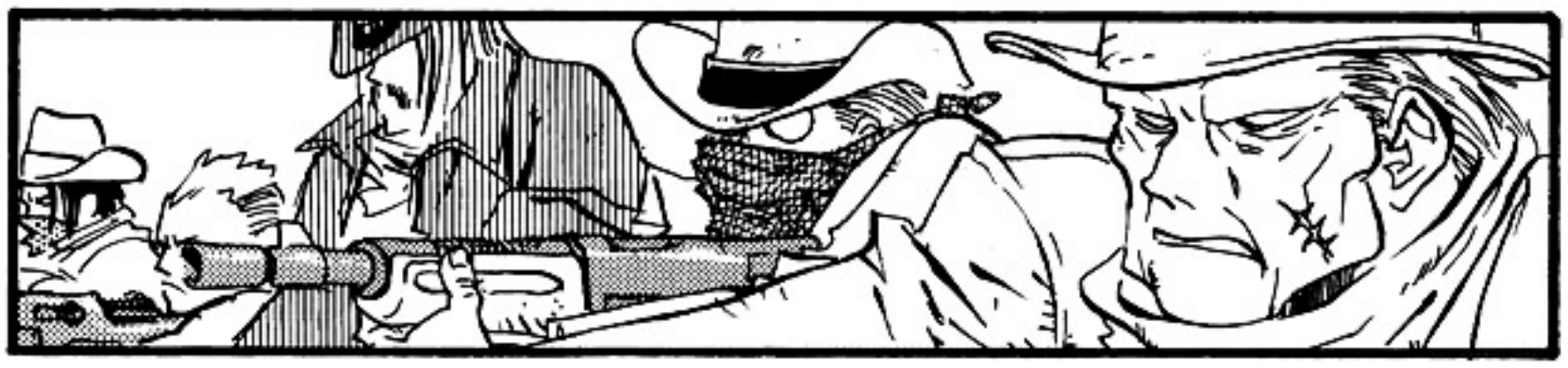

...
GREAT! THE EQUIPMENT'S PERFECT!
BUT...
NOT A SINGLE SHOT WENT THROUGH.
GAH!
END OF THE LINE, GUNMAN.
ALL WE GOTTA DO NOW IS WATCH THAT DOOR.
YOWCH!
...IT STILL FELT LIKE BEING RUN OVER BY A HERD OF TOMA!
SO WHENEVER YOU'RE READY TO BE SHOT FULL OF HOLES, GO AHEAD AND STICK YER NECK OUT.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY IN AND IT'LL TURN YOU TO MINCED MEAT.

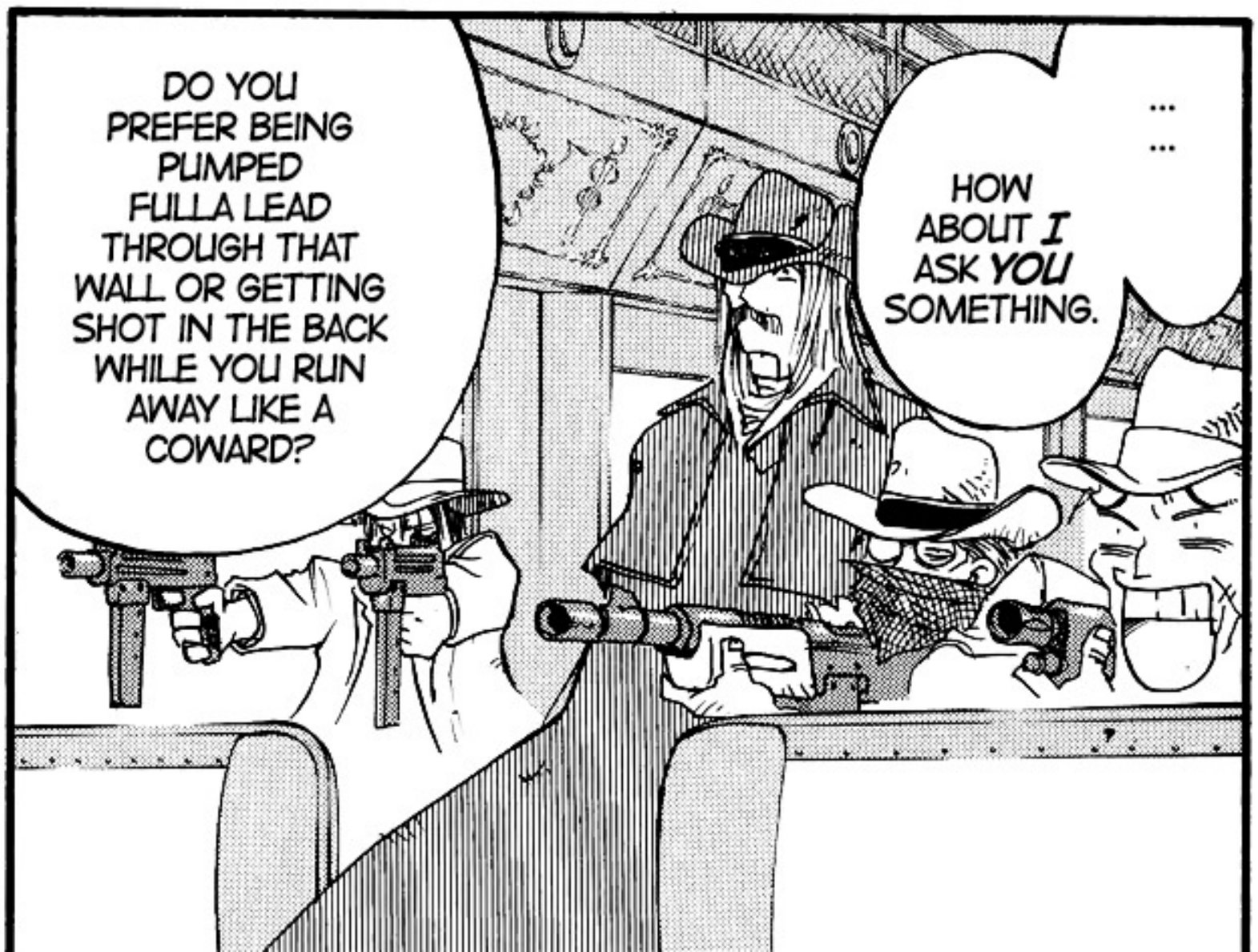
MAYBE IF I DON'T USE MY EYES...
BUT...
JUMPING STRAIGHT IN ISN'T GONNA TO WORK.
... ...
THANKS FOR THE TIP.

...THAT'S A REAL SHAME.









AAH!

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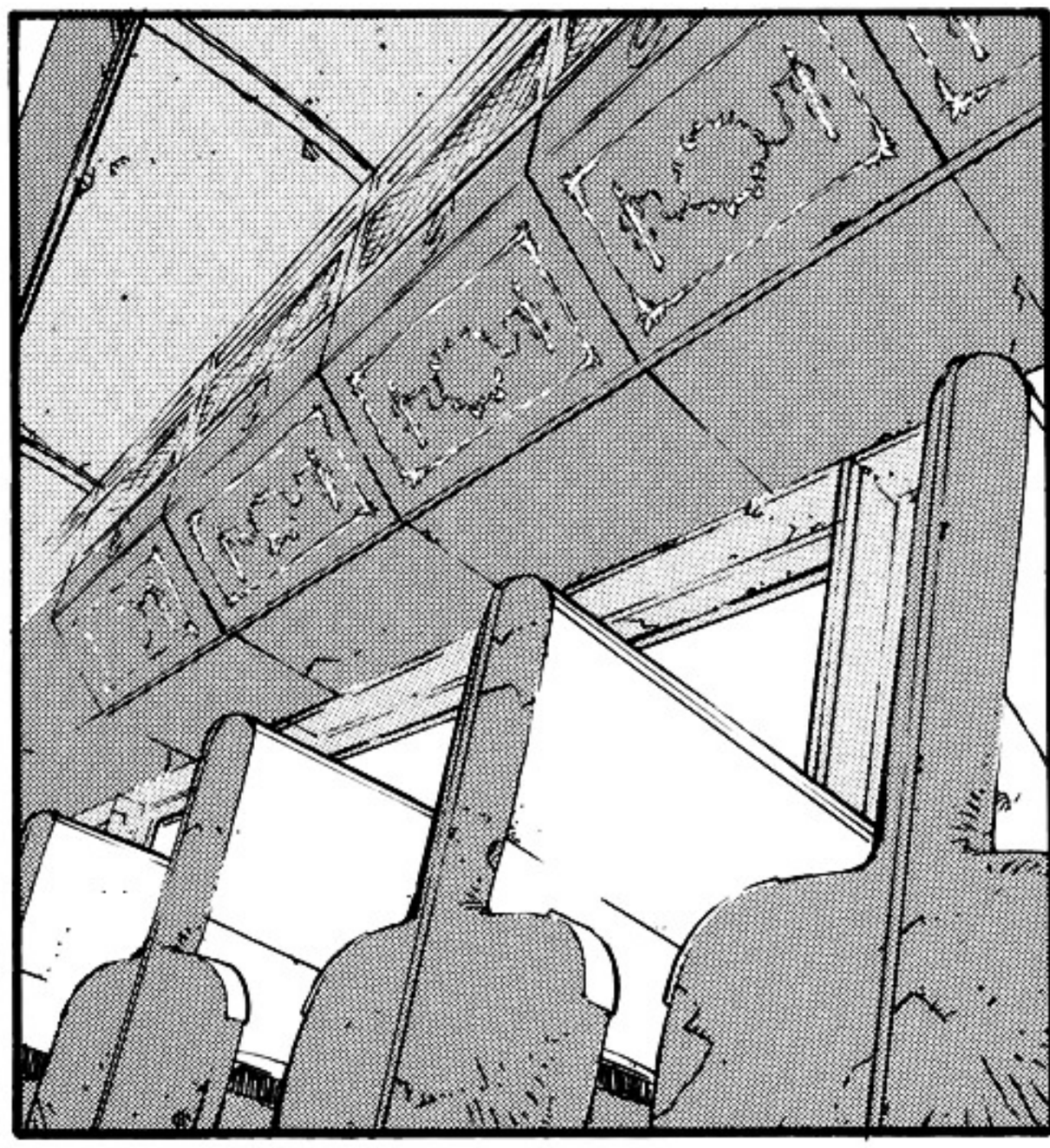

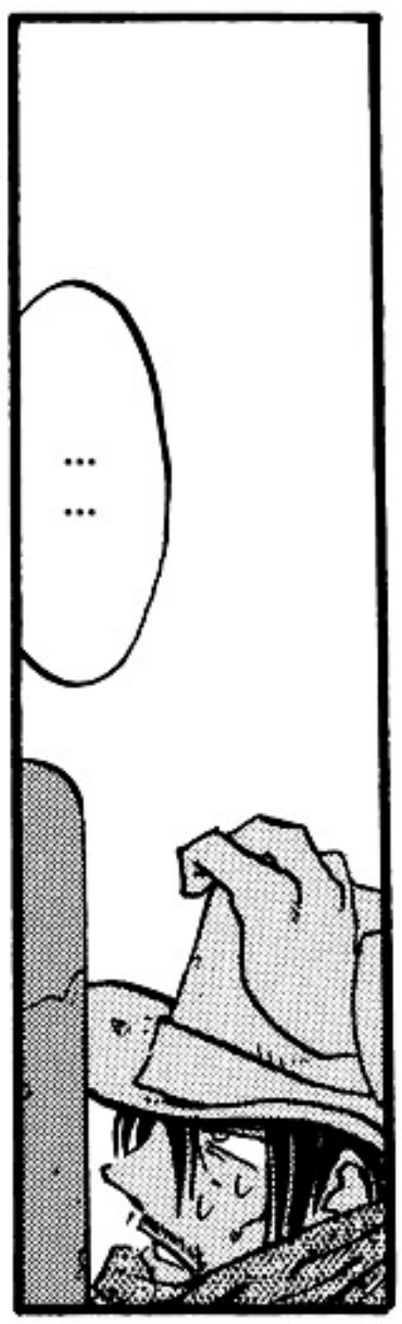
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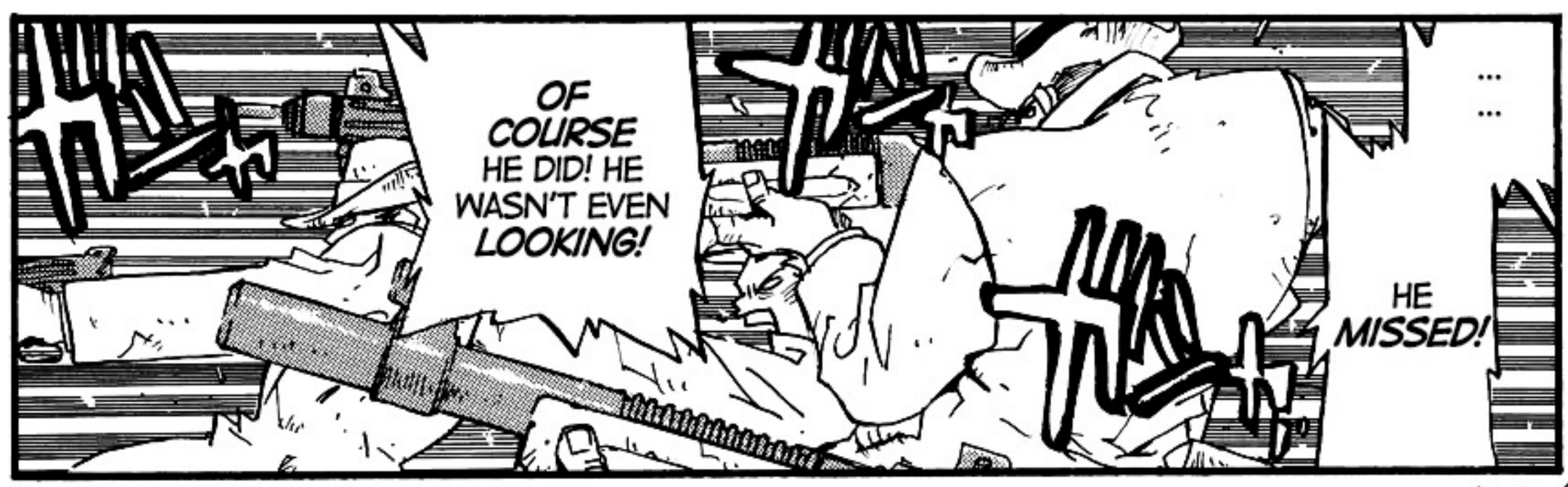
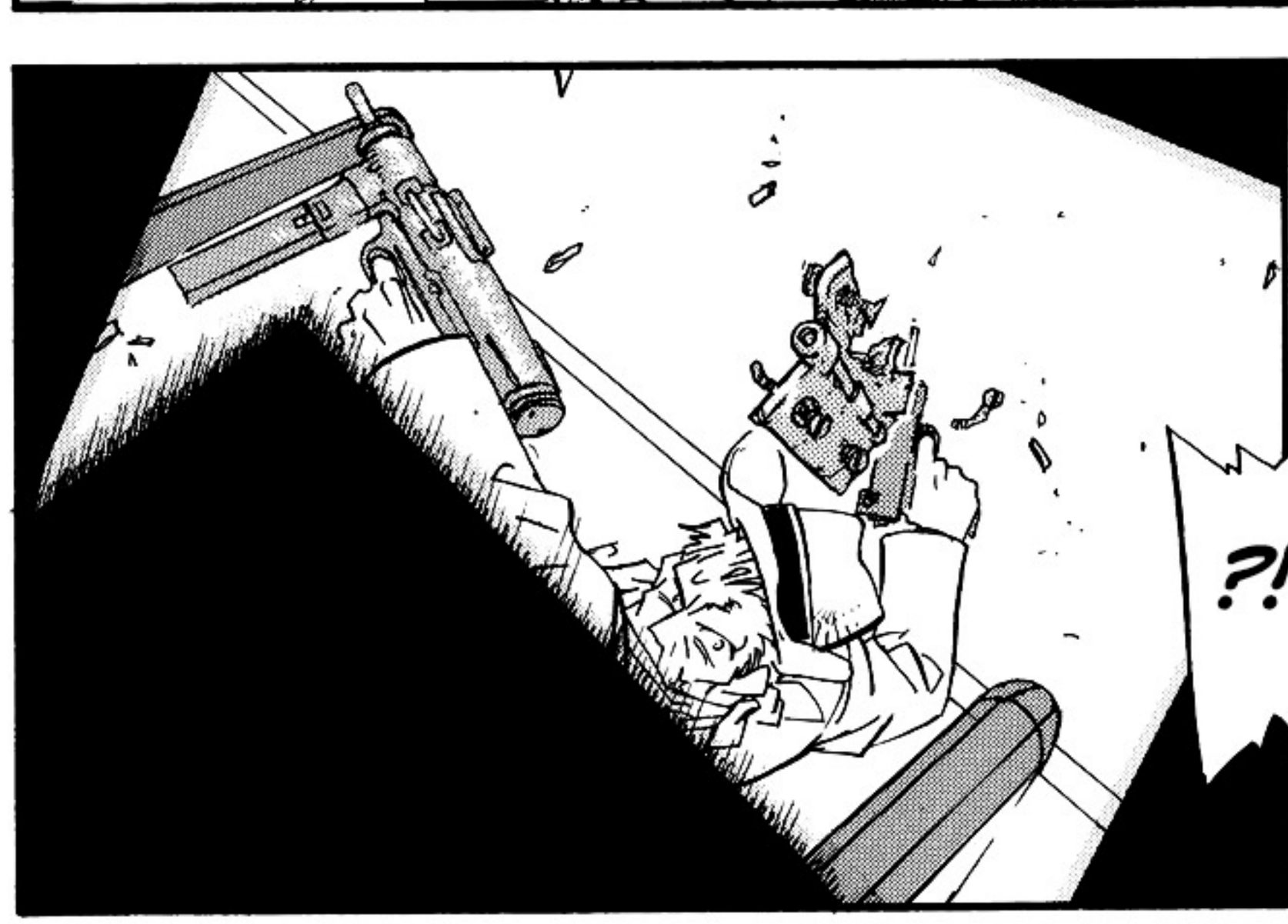

OF COURSE HE DID! HE WASN'T EVEN LOOKING!
...
...
HE MISSED!


?!

EAT TH-
CRACK

GAAAAAH!!
AND STAY DOWN...
...YA SHIT HEADS!
OOF!

STOP IT!

YANK

GAAHA!!

LET THAT MAN GO, WILL YA?

THE SHOW'S OVER, POPS.

NO.

WHO ARE YOU WITH?

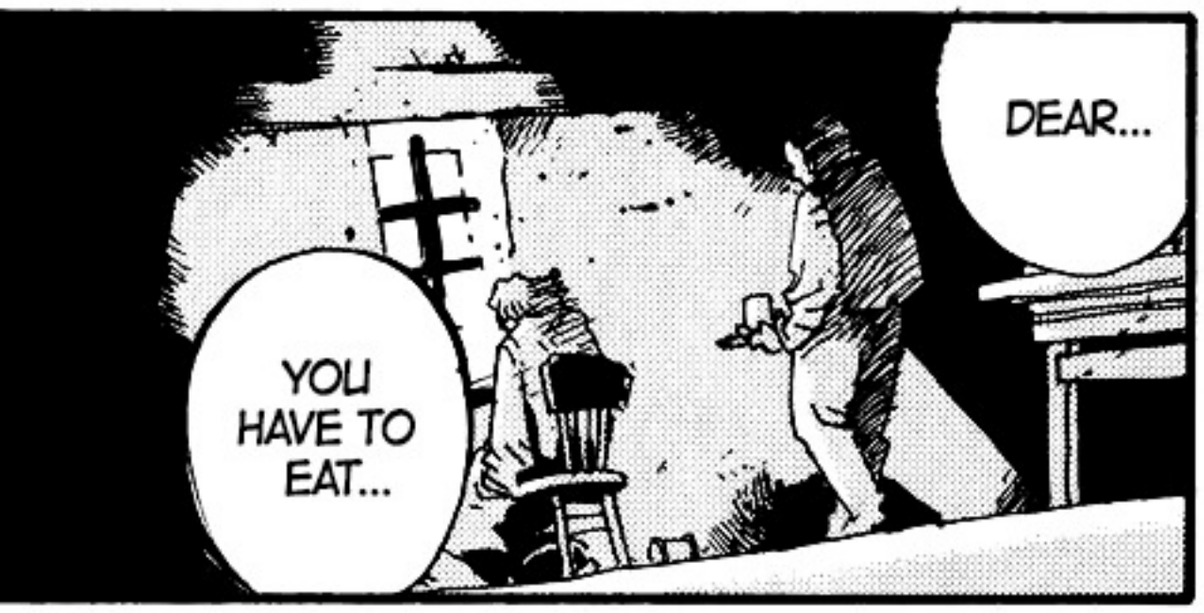
THE FEDS?

IF YER GONNA SHOOT ME, THEN *SHOOT ME!*

DON'T GIVE ME A *REASON.*

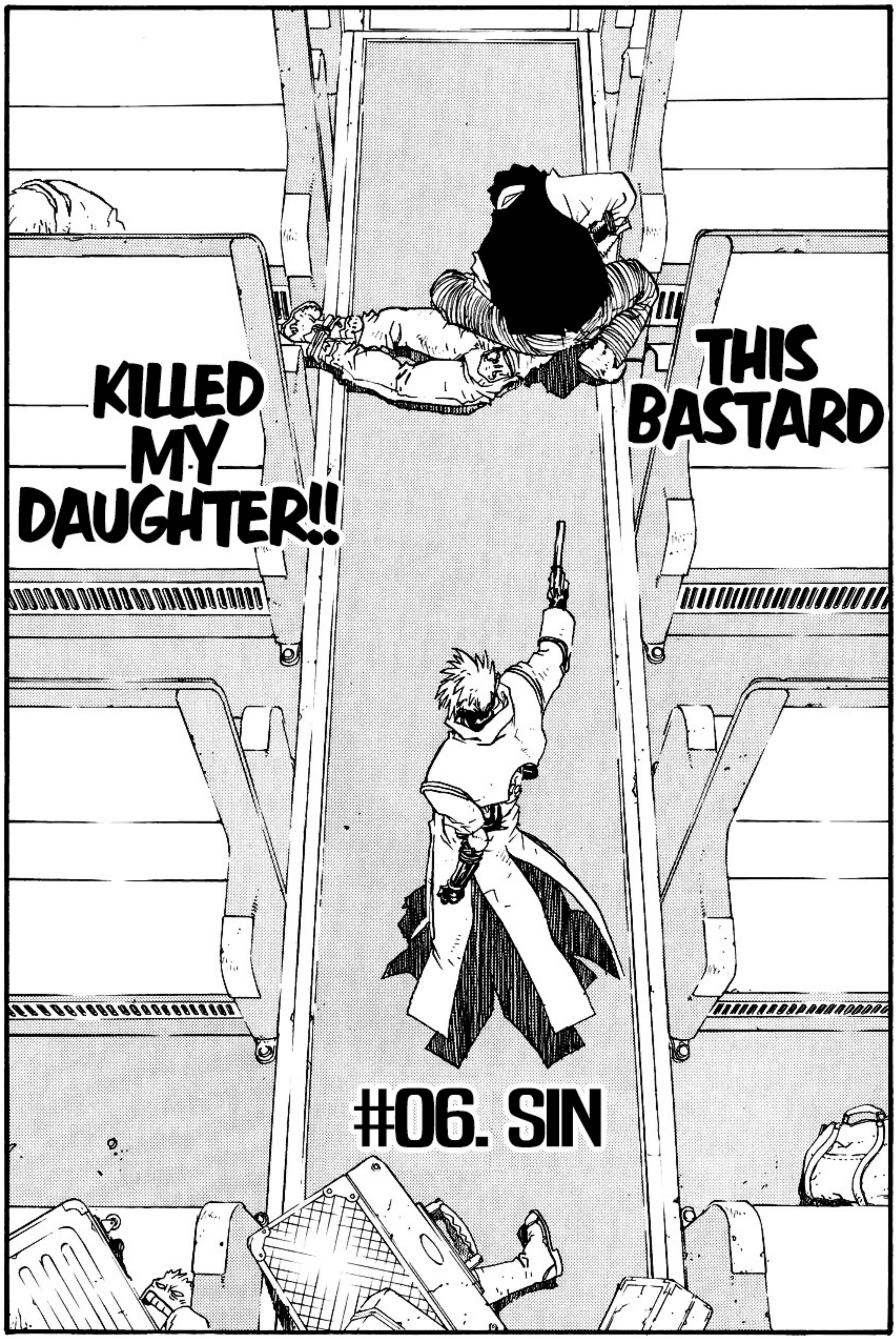
STUBBORN FOOL...
WHO GAVE YOU THE RIGHT TO DECIDE?
...
...
THIS PUNK'S BETTER OFF DEAD!
THEN WHY THE HELL ARE YOU HERE?!
NO WAY!
LET THAT MAN GO!
I'LL TELL YOU ONE MORE TIME...
JUST SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
SHUT UP!
DAMNIT, OLD MAN! WILL YOU JUST-

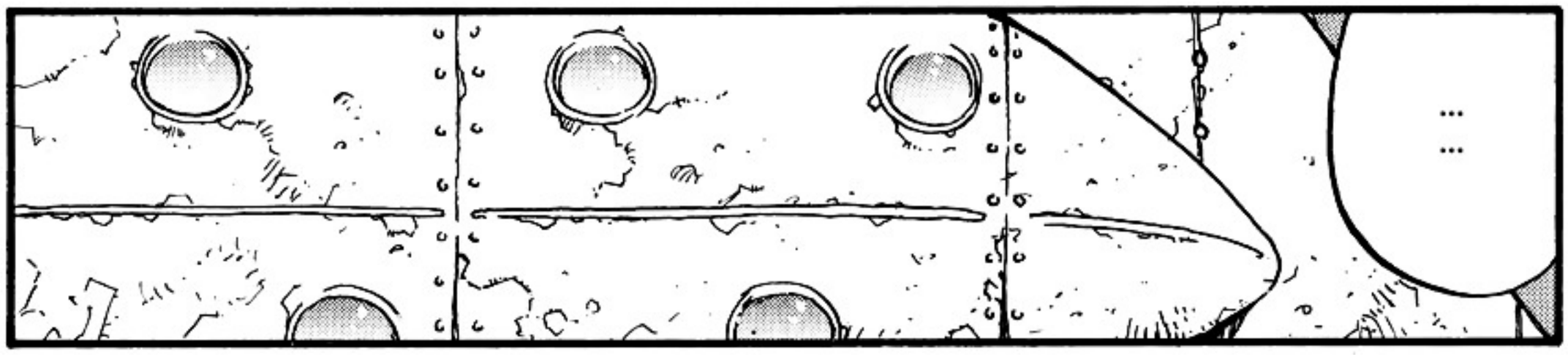
HE KILLED HER...
THIS MAN... THIS ANIMAL..
THIS BASTARD
KILLED MY DAUGHTER!
#05. DANCING REVOLVER / END

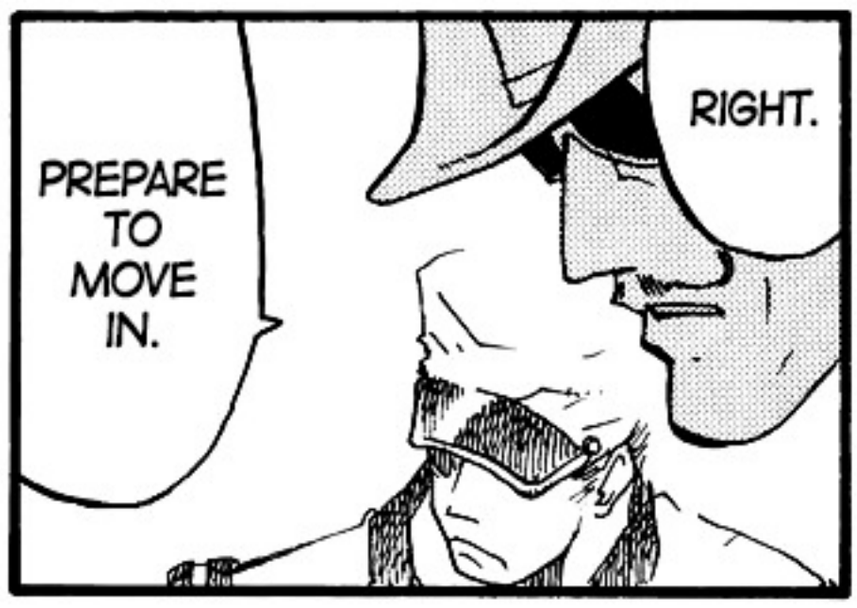

DEAR...
YOU HAVE TO EAT...

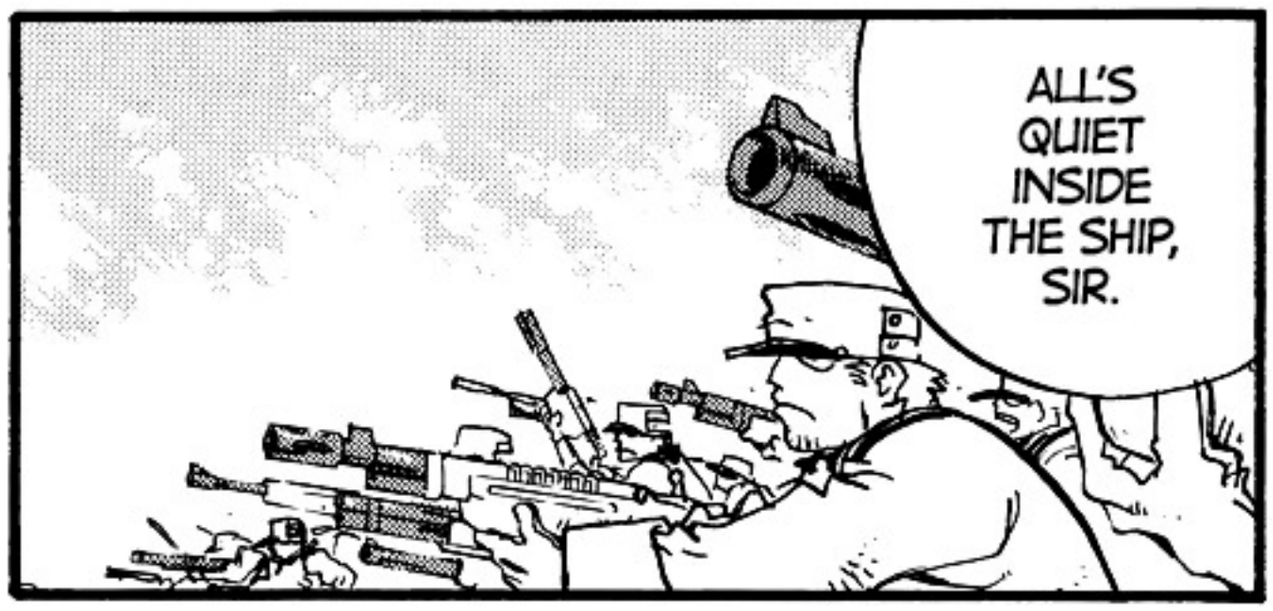
IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY THAT KEEPS REPEATING ITSELF.
EVEN PEOPLE WHO WOULD NEVER FIGHT...
...WILL PICK UP A GUN IF THEIR LOVED ONES ARE KILLED.

HOW HORRIBLE...
NOT AGAIN...!
THEY'RE ONLY DISTANTLY RELATED TO THE FRIS FAMILY, THERE WAS NO NEED TO INVOLVE THE GIRL.

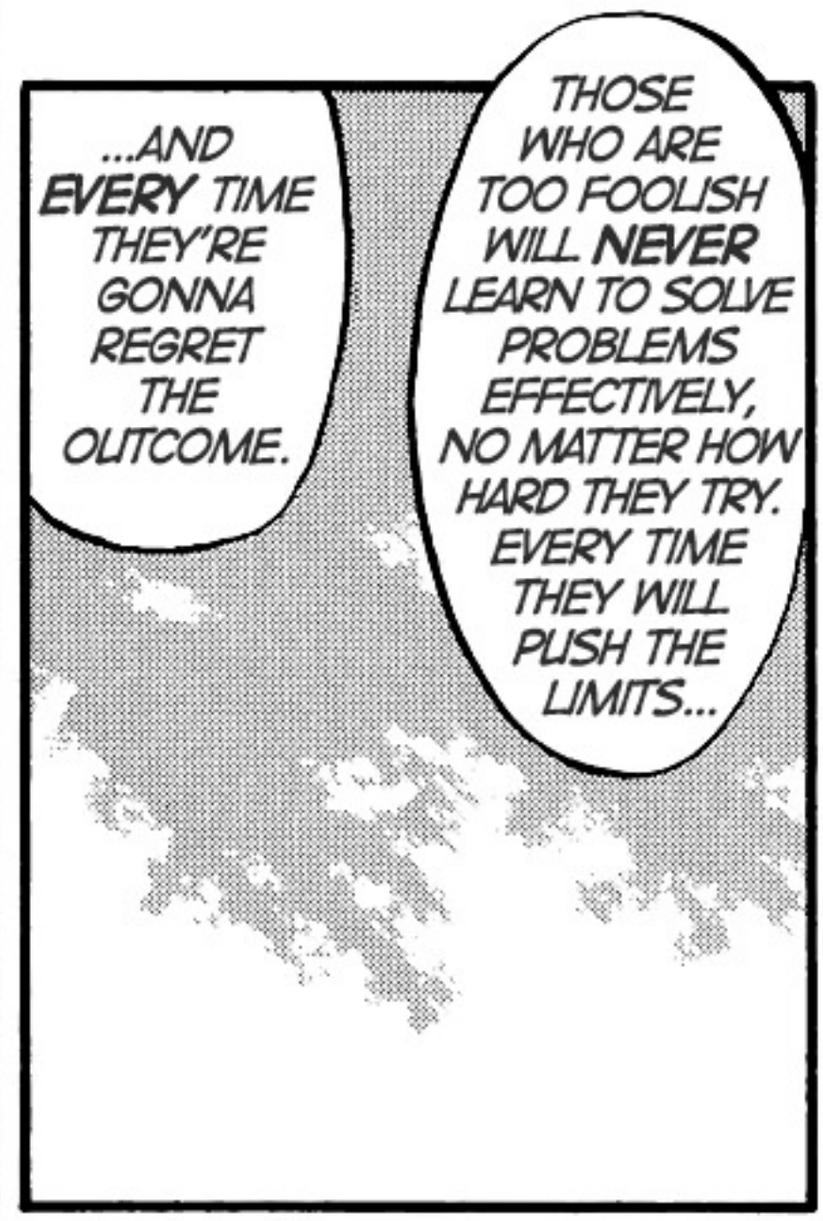

KILLED MY DAUGHTER!!
THIS BASTARD
#06. SIN


...
...


PREPARE TO MOVE IN.
RIGHT.

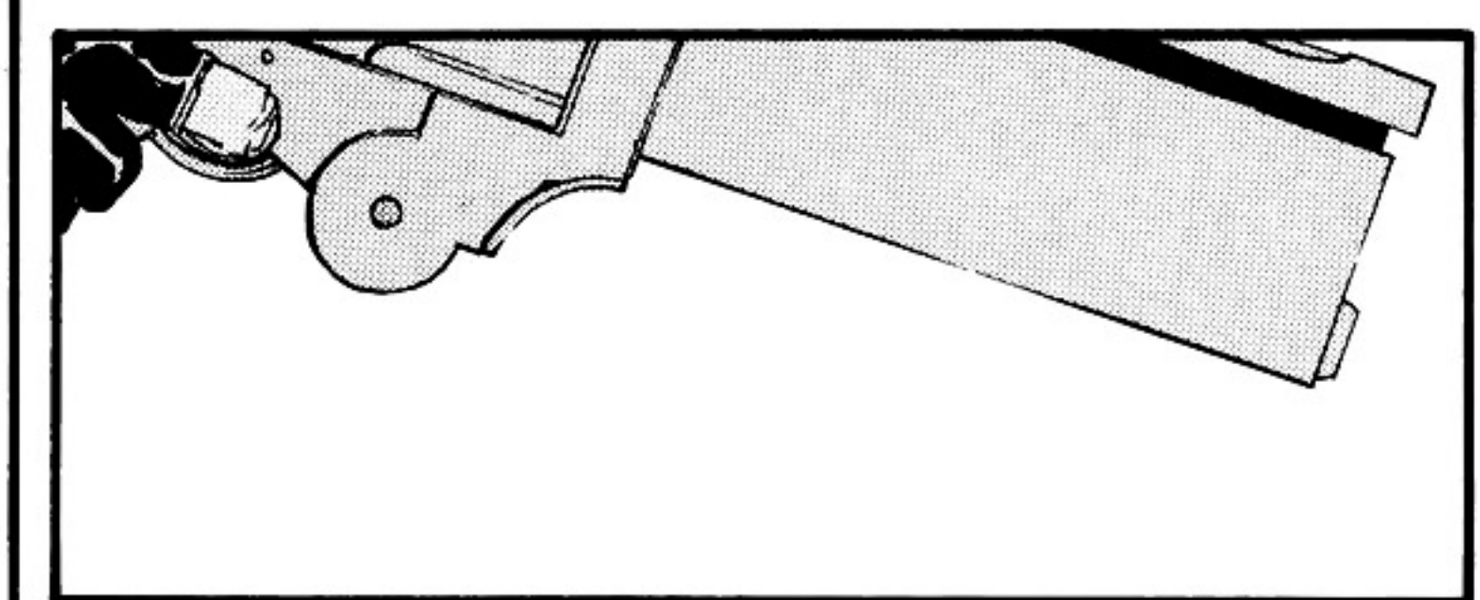

ALL'S QUIET INSIDE THE SHIP, SIR.

IT WAS A STUPID STUNT FROM THE START, DOC.
HE'S *PROBABLY* DEAD.
DON'T WORRY, HE'S FINE. AT LEAST HE *WILL* BE...


...AND EVERY TIME THEY'RE GONNA REGRET THE OUTCOME.
THOSE WHO ARE TOO FOOLISH WILL NEVER LEARN TO SOLVE PROBLEMS EFFECTIVELY, NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY. EVERY TIME THEY WILL PUSH THE LIMITS...

IF YOU'RE UNCERTAIN ABOUT HIM...
...THEN YOU NEED TO USE MORE THAN YOUR HEAD.

SO, WHATCHA GONNA DO, NEEDLE-NOGGIN?
IF YA DIE, THEN ALL I'VE TOLD YA WOULD BE WASTED... SEEMS LIKE MY LUCK WILL BE TESTED, TOO.
NOW THAT THE STAKES HAVE BEEN RAISED, ARE YOU GONNA END UP REGRETTIN' THE OUTCOME OR WILL YA BE SINGIN' WITH THE ANGELS?



AAAAAA AAAAH!!
CHK
PLEASE!
GAH...
HAH...
WHEN I'M DONE, YOU CAN TURN ME IN TO THE FEDS, OR THE SHERIFF, OR WHOEVER. I DON'T REALLY CARE.
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.
...
...

SHUT UP!

OH GOD, PLEASE, *DON'T DO IT!*

I'M SORRY! *I'M SORRY!*

PLEASE! *PLEASE STOP!* I DON'T WANNA *DIE!*

YOU SCUM *KEPT* PLAYING WITH HER WHILE SHE *DIED!* WAS IT FUN FOR YOU TO KILL HER, *HUH?!*

NOT ONLY DID YOU *VIOLATE* HER GOD KNOWS HOW MANY TIMES, BUT YOU SHOT HER FULL OF HOLES JUST TO DRAG OUT HER *SLOW, AGONIZING DEATH!*

WHAT YOU AND YOUR PALS DID TO HER WAS HORRIBLE! MY EILEEN WAS *TORN TO PIECES!*

MY DAUGHTER DID TOO, *DIDN'T SHE?!*

BEGGING FOR YOUR *PATHETIC* LIFE?!

AND DO YOU REMEM-BER WHAT YOU *DID?!*

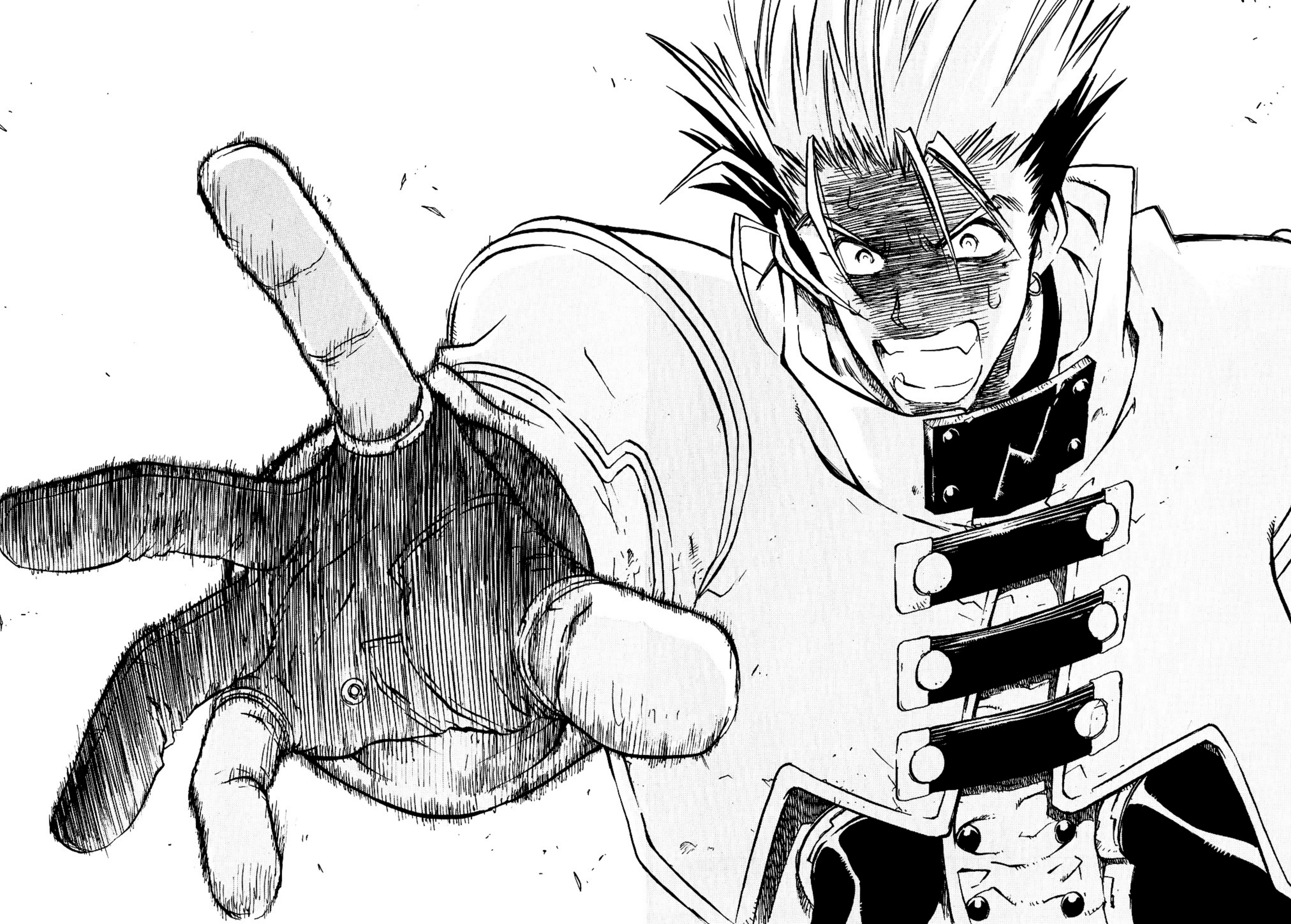
OH GOD PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!

PLEASE DON'T!

I DON'T WANNA DIE! PLEASE FOR THE LOVE OF GOD SOMEONE HELP ME PLEASE! DON'T KILL ME PLEASE! OH PLEASE SAVE ME GOD! OH GOD GOD GOD! PLEASE PLEASE DON'T KILL ME PLEASE!

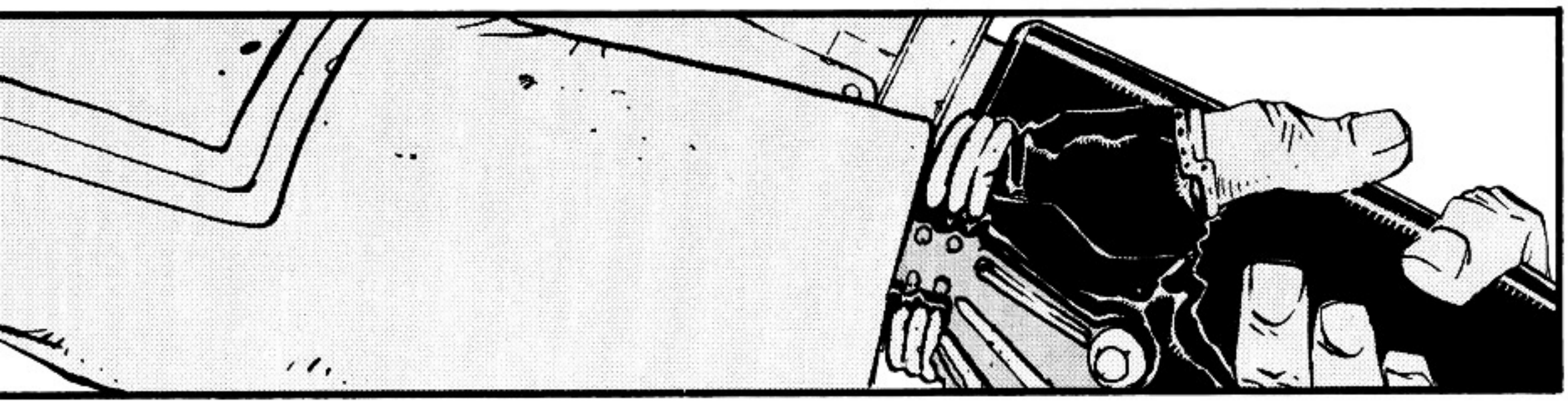
HAH! AAAAAH!

AAAA

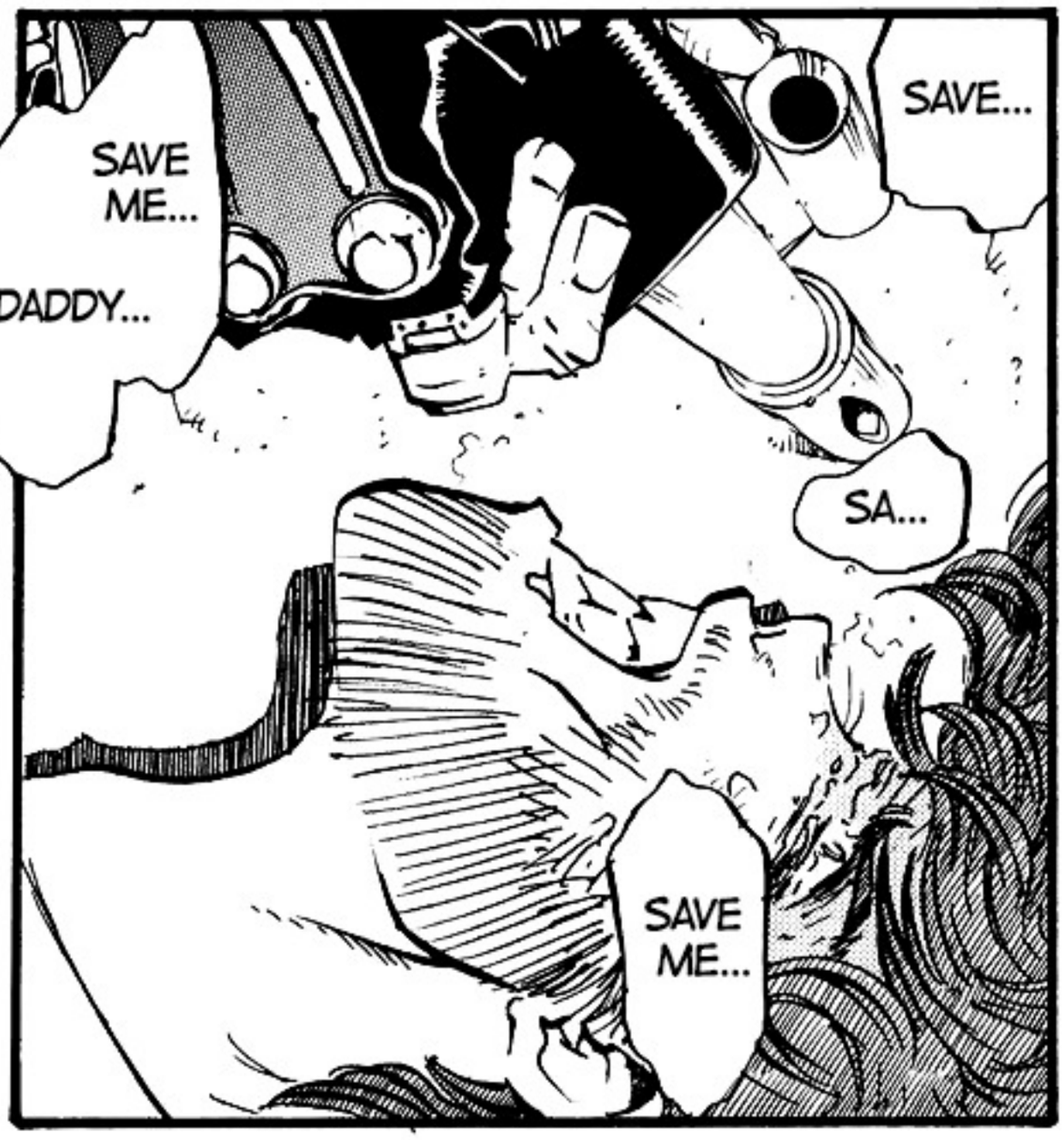


WHA-?!
YOU...!
DON'T INTERFERE!
STOP!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW?!
LET GO!
LET GO OF IT!
DON'T YOU DARE JUDGE ME BY YOUR HIGH AND MIGHTY STANDARDS!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY PAIN?!

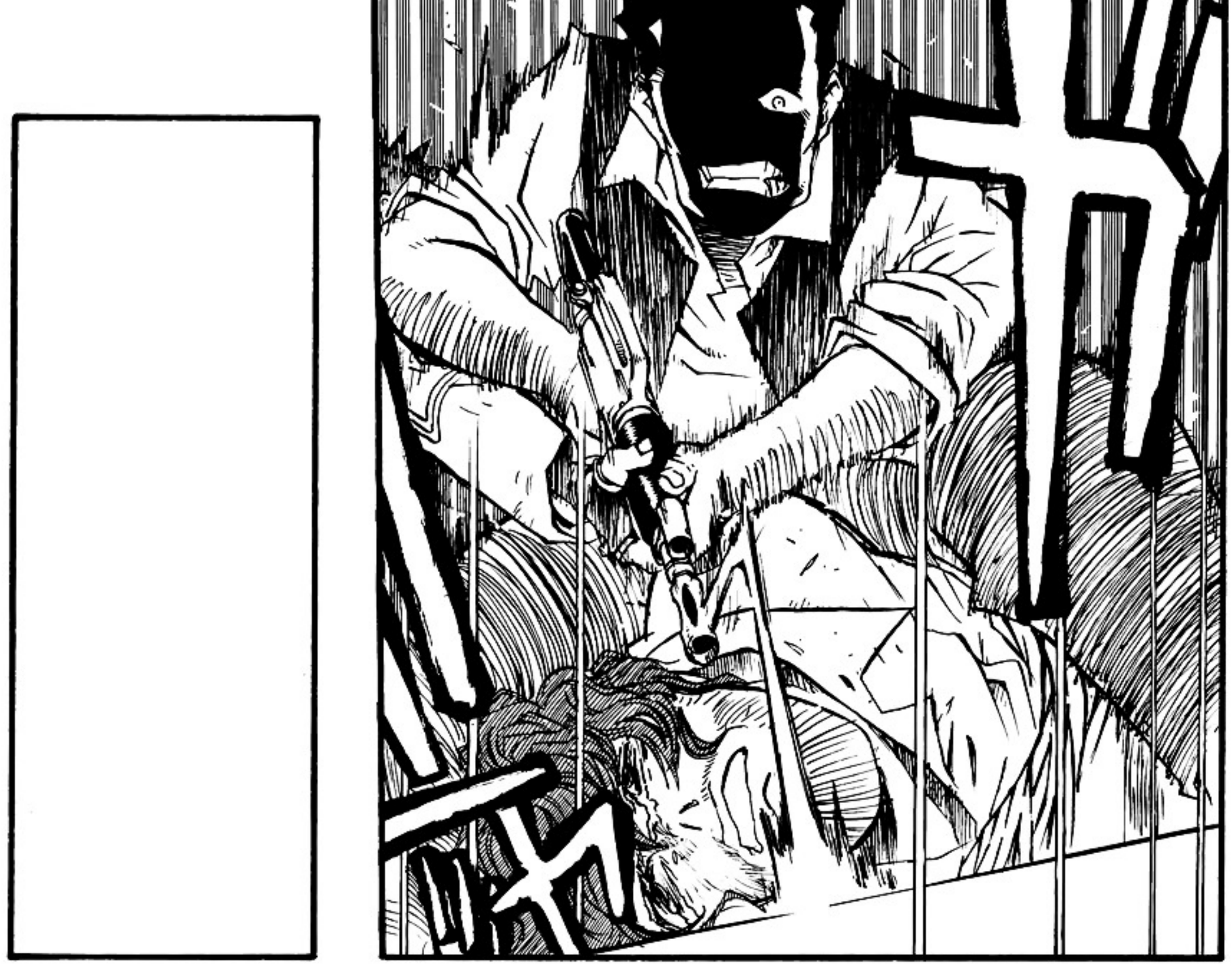
LET GO!!

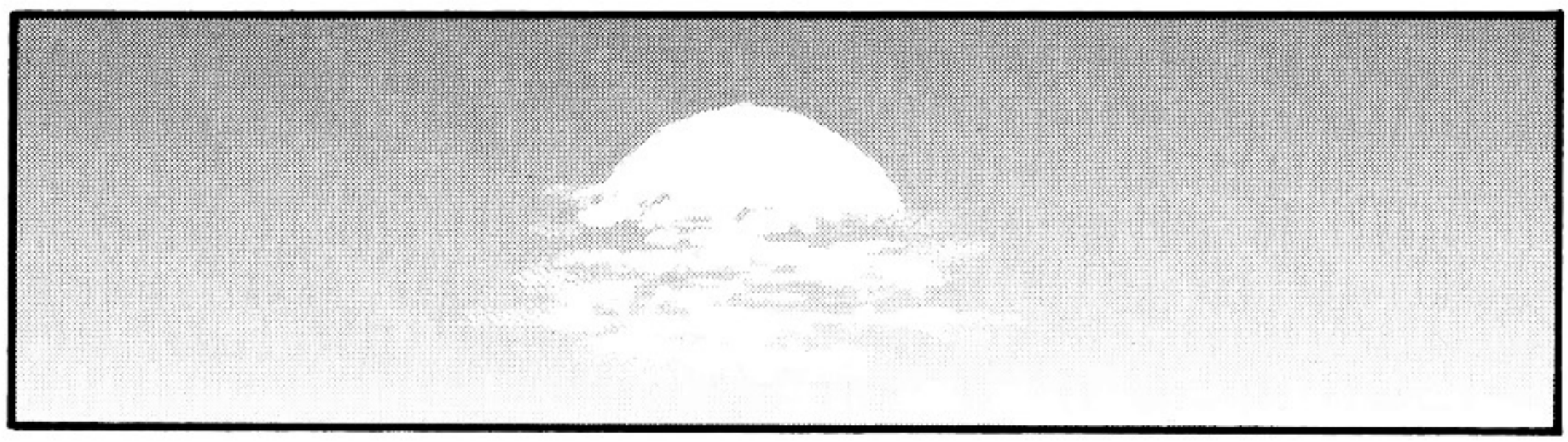


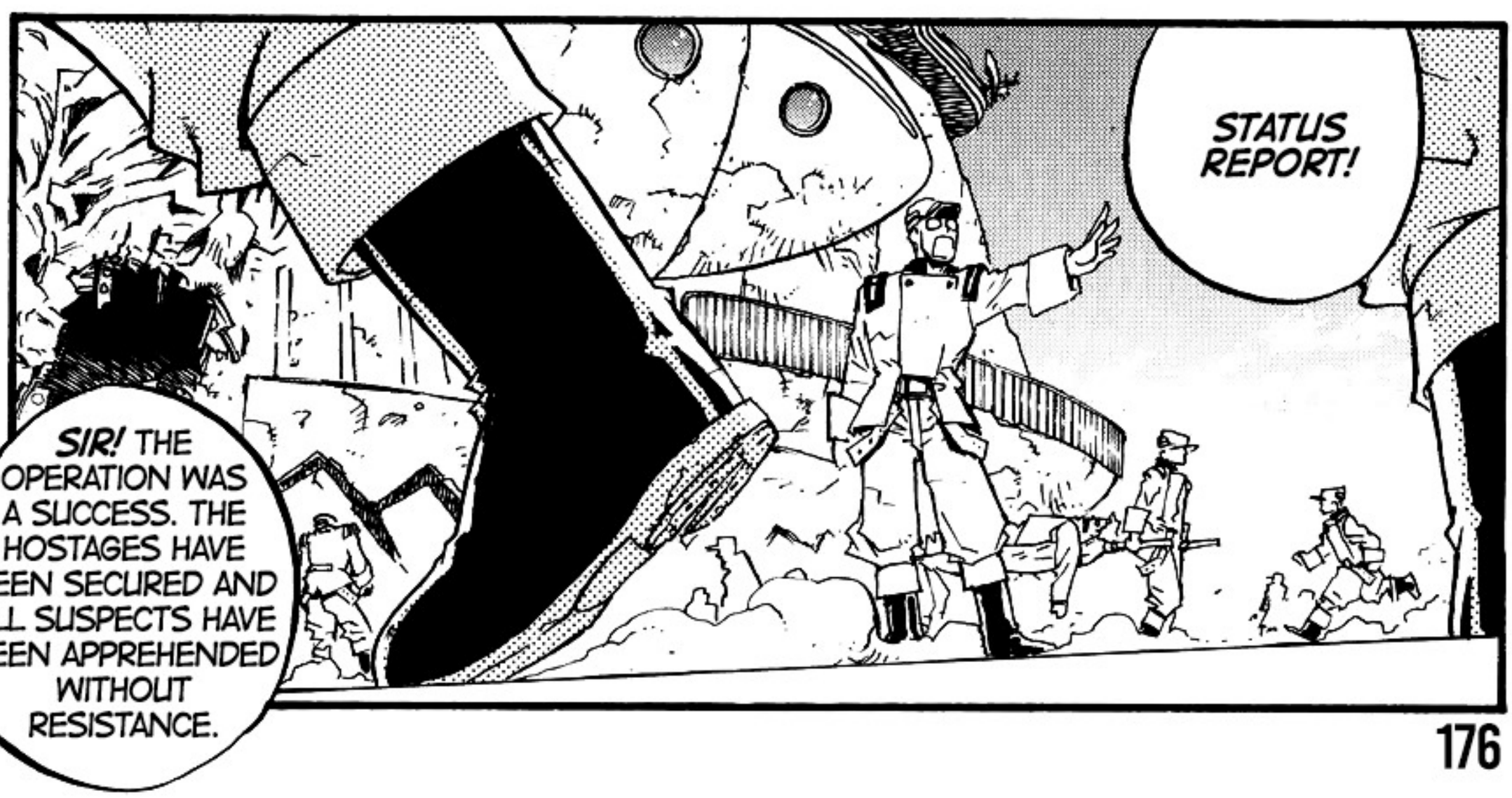
D-DADDY...


SAVE ME...
DADDY...
SAVE...
SA...
SAVE ME...

WA-AH-AAH!
SOB
SOB SOB SOB

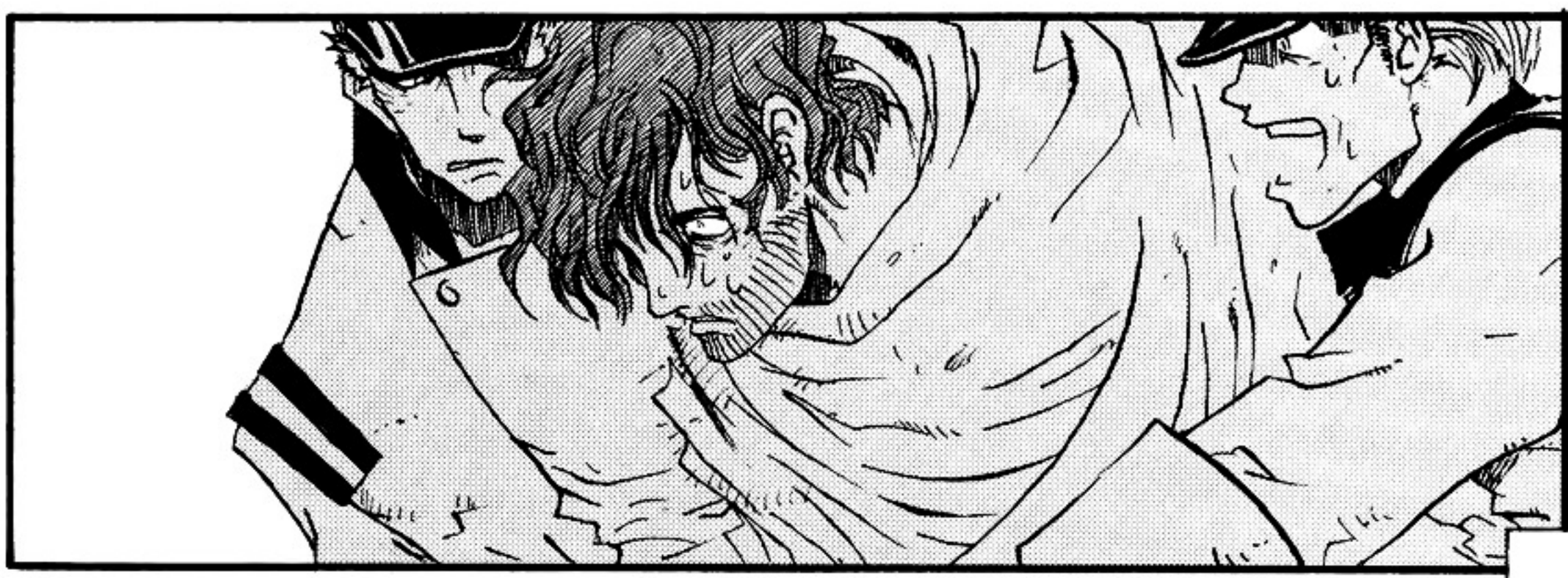




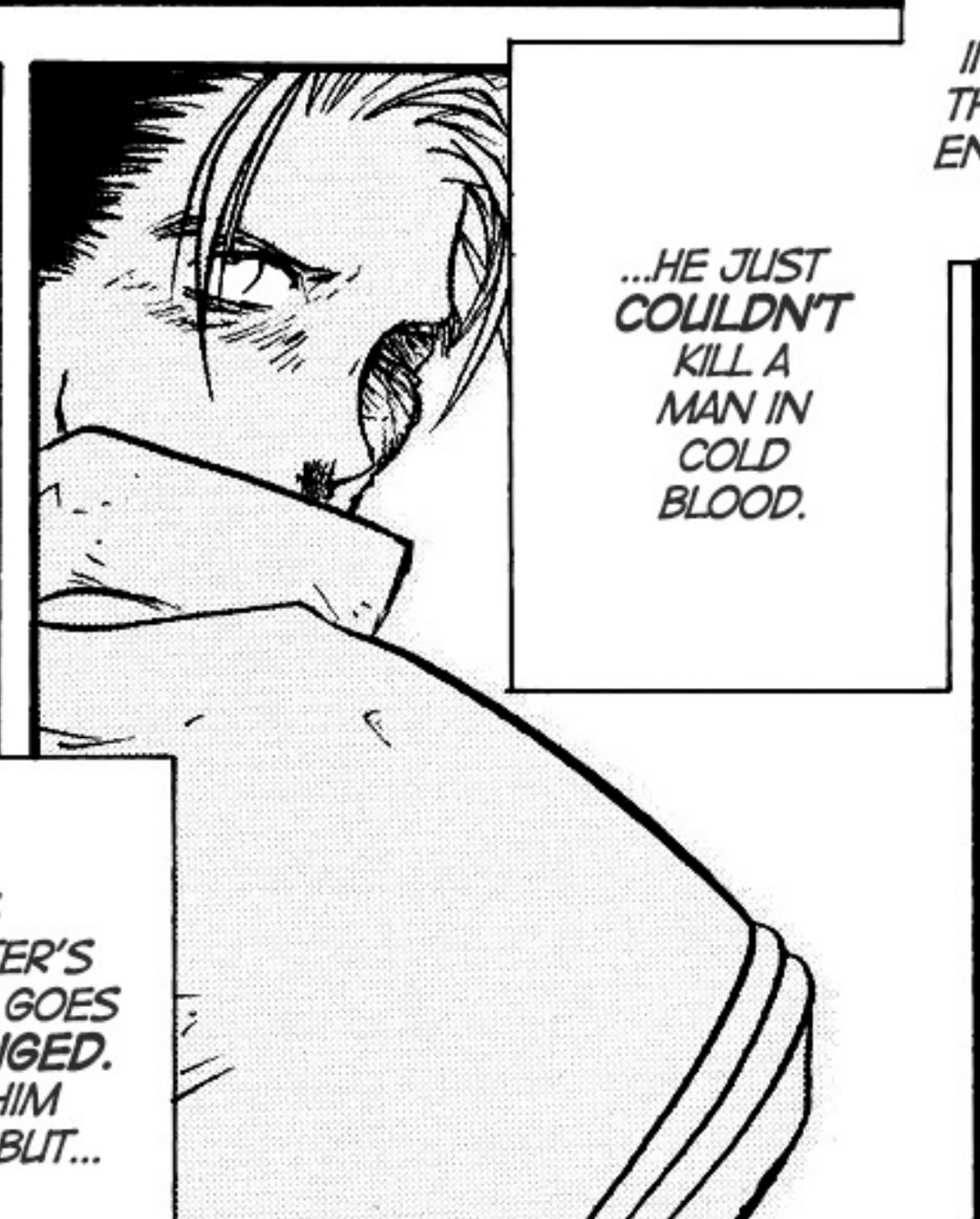

STATUS REPORT!
SIR! THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS. THE HOSTAGES HAVE BEEN SECURED AND ALL SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED WITHOUT RESISTANCE.

A FULL CASUALTY ASSESSMENT IS UNDER WAY.
ALSO...
THIRTEEN HIJACKERS ARE BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, PLUS ONE ADDITIONAL PERSON.

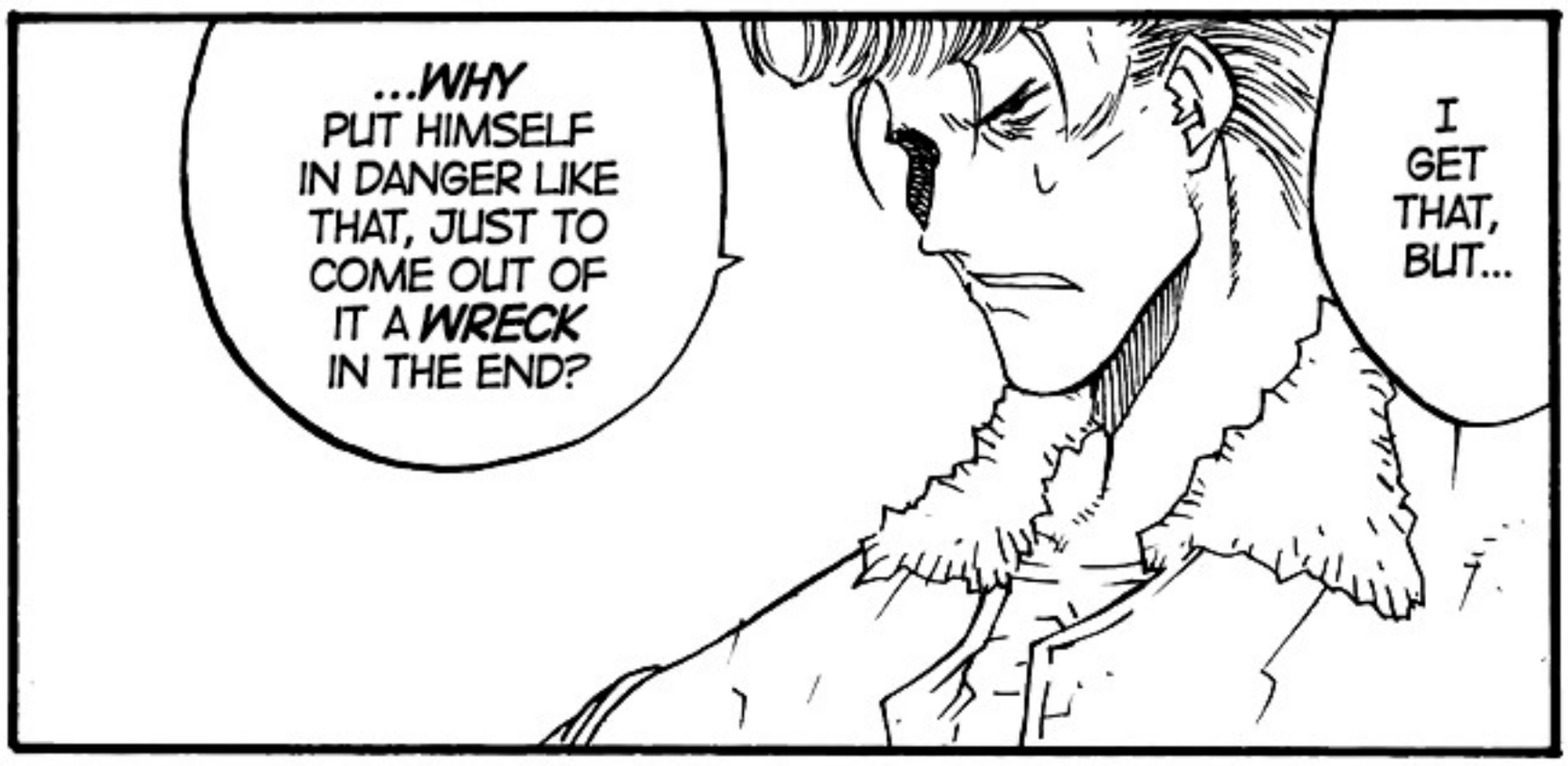
ISN'T THAT THE POLO KID?
OVER THERE...
HEY!
HE'S ALIVE?



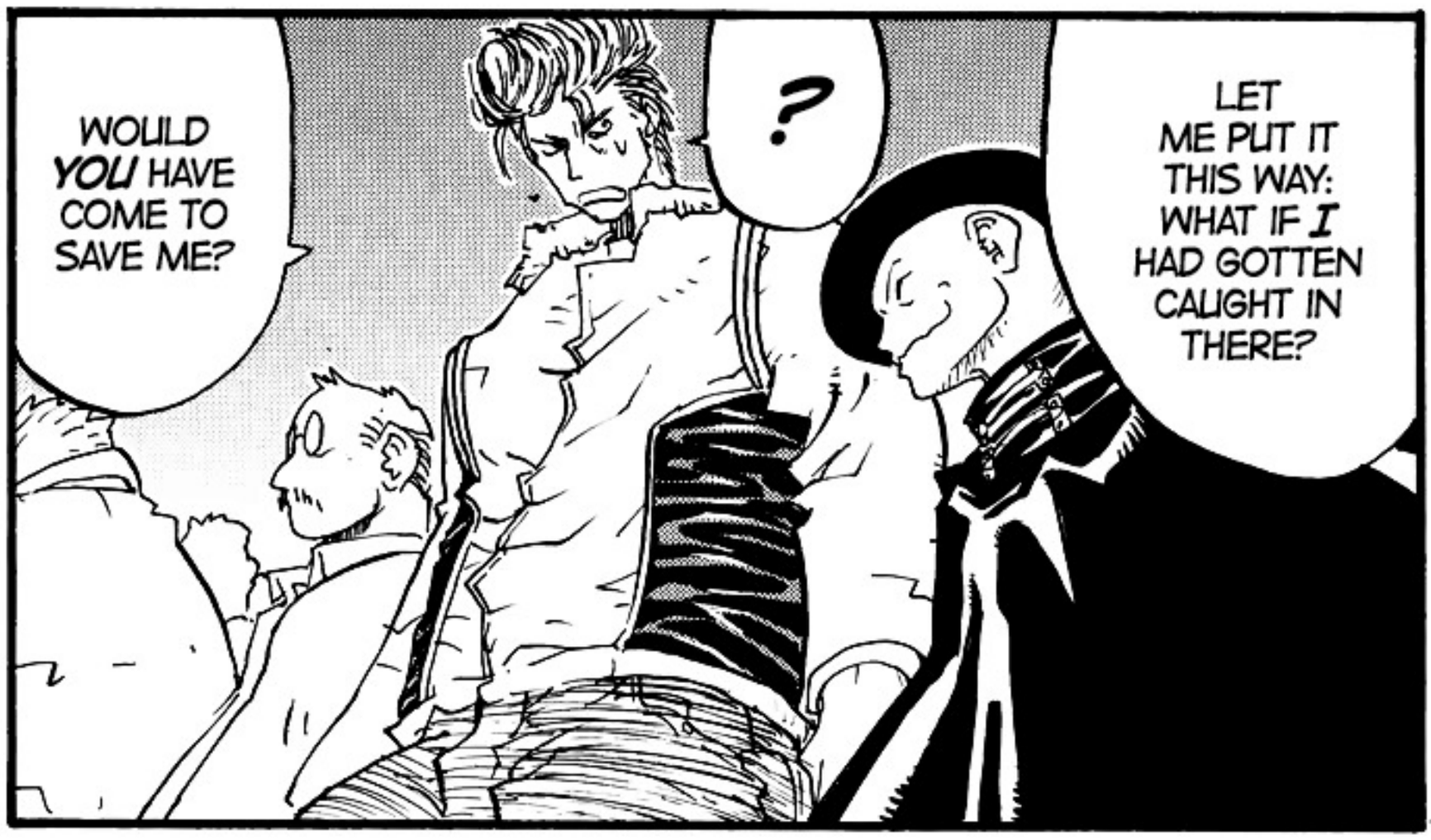
...THAT "WEAKNESS" SAVED THE BOTH OF US.
HIS DAUGHTER'S MURDER GOES UNAVENGED. CALL HIM WEAK, BUT...


IN THE END...
...HE JUST COULDN'T KILL A MAN IN COLD BLOOD.

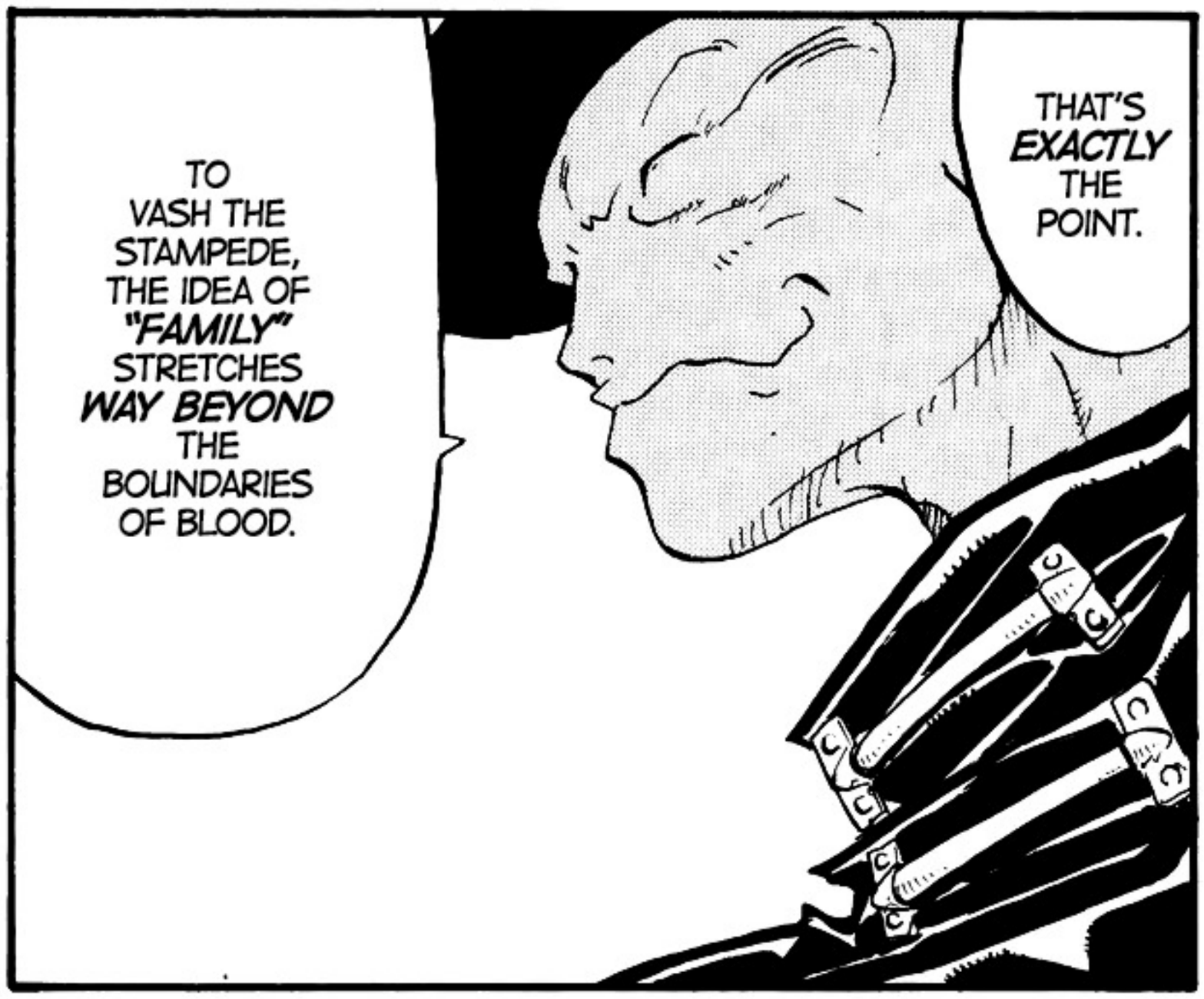
H–
HEY!
AND YET...
AH...
GET BACK UP!
S– SORRY.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THE POINT OF ALL THAT?
IT MAKES NO SENSE, DOCTOR!
I DON'T GET IT!


...WHY PUT HIMSELF IN DANGER LIKE THAT, JUST TO COME OUT OF IT A WRECK IN THE END?
I GET THAT, BUT...

IT WAS TO KEEP THIS INCIDENT FROM BECOMING A BLOOD-BATH.


WOULD YOU HAVE COME TO SAVE ME?
?
LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: WHAT IF I HAD GOTTEN CAUGHT IN THERE?

...
...
AH, YOU.


TO VASH THE STAMPEDE, THE IDEA OF "FAMILY" STRETCHES WAY BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF BLOOD.
THAT'S EXACTLY THE POINT.

...
...
WE'RE FAMILY.
OF COURSE I WOULD.

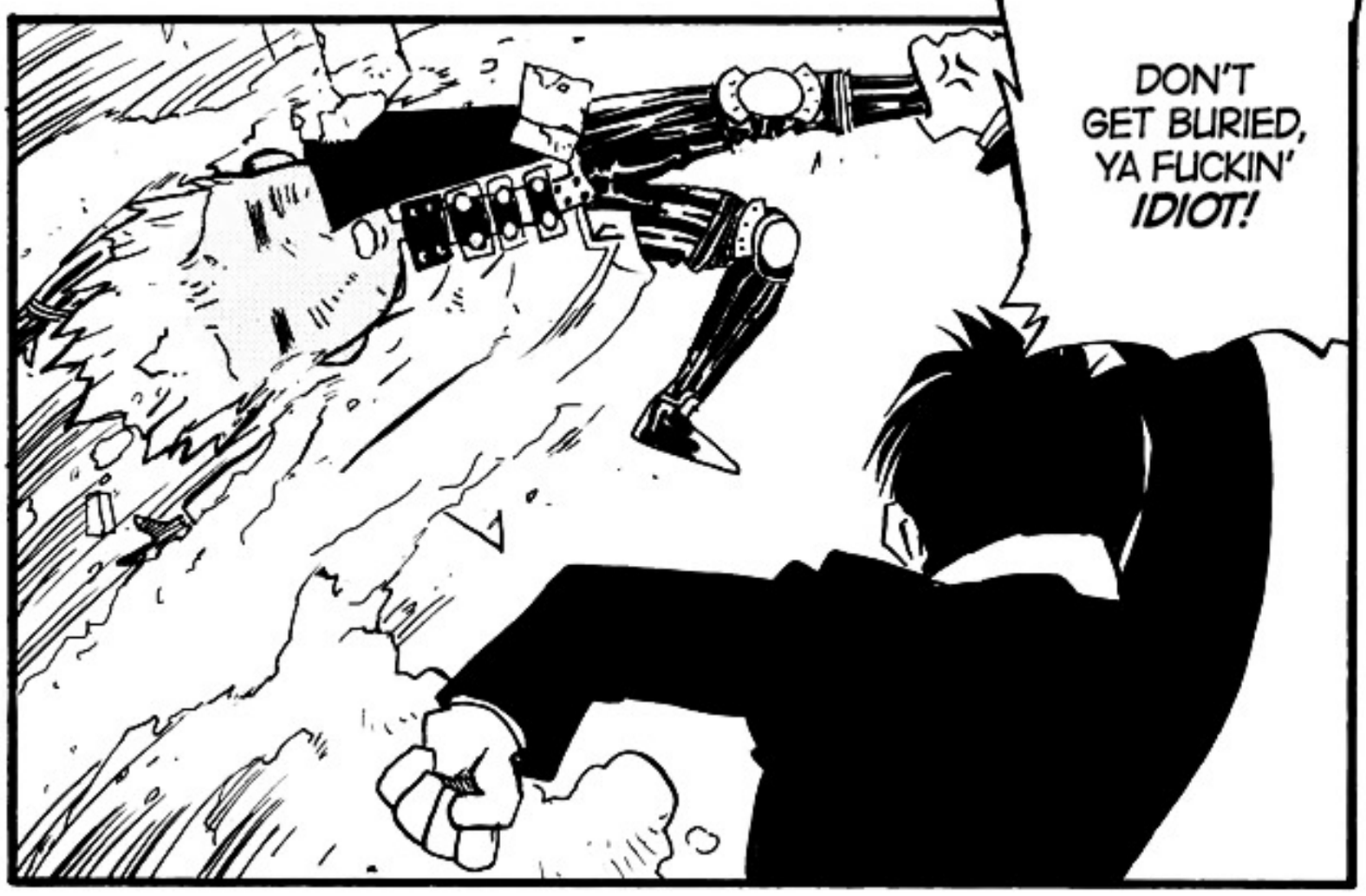
HUH?
ARE WE JUST GOING TO *LEAVE* HIM?
AH, WELL.
SHALL WE GO?
IT MUST BE A HEAVY, PAINFUL BURDEN FOR SOMEONE AS LONG-LIVED AS HIM.

DON'T WORRY. HE'LL WIGGLE HIS WAY OUT OF *THIS* PREDICAMENT *SOMEHOW.*
OUR WORK HERE IS *DONE.*

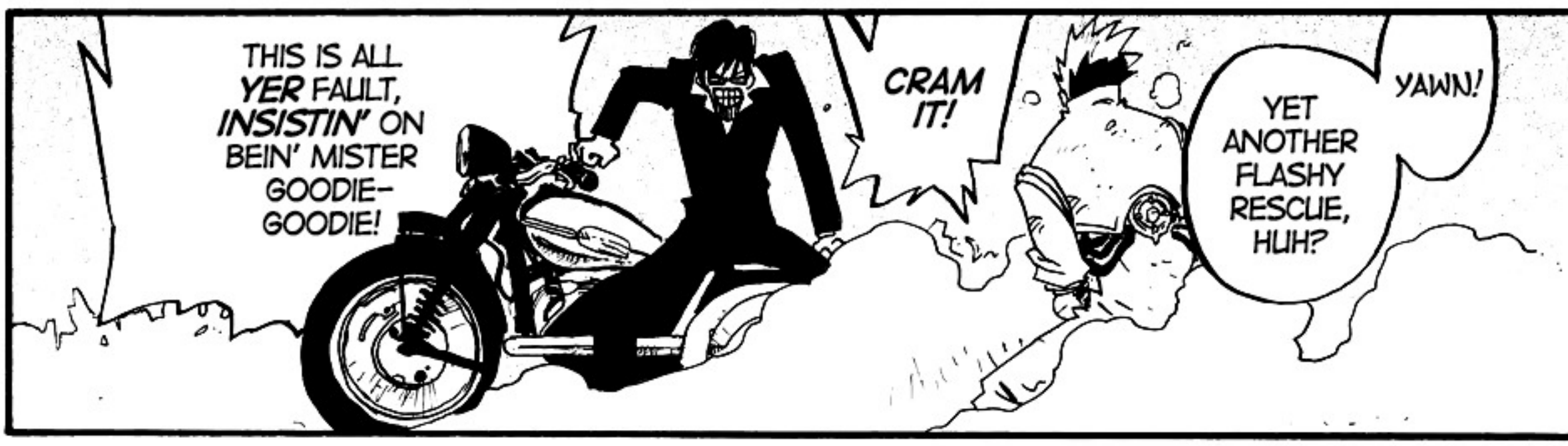
...
...

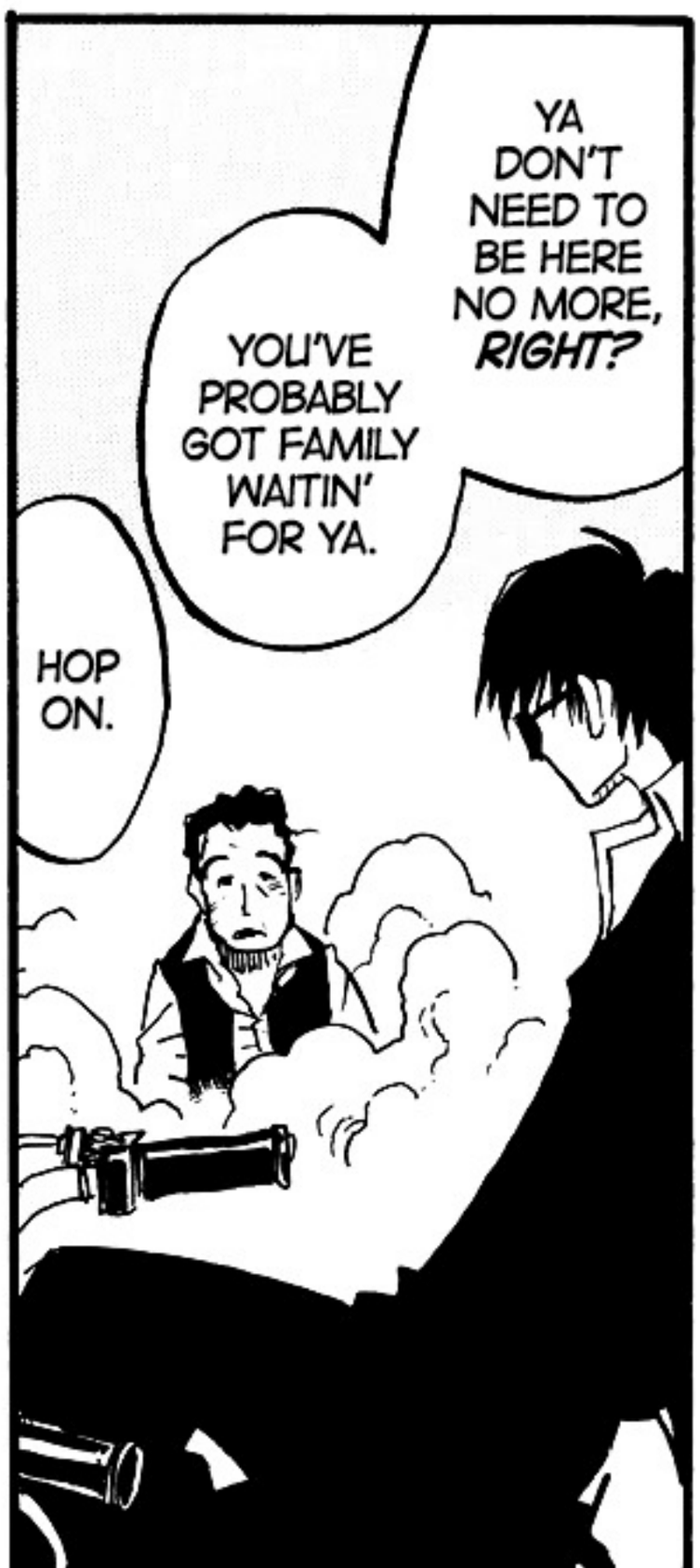
WHAT THE HELL IS IT NOW?!
WHA-WHA-
WHA-?!
IT'S CELL NUMBER #7!
THE WITNESSES ARE ESCAPING!
AN EXPLOSION?!

HEY, NEEDLE-NOGGIN! LET'S GIT OUTTA HERE!
GOOD LORD, WHAT I GOTTA DO FOR YA, JACK-


DON'T GET BURIED, YA FUCKIN' IDIOT!

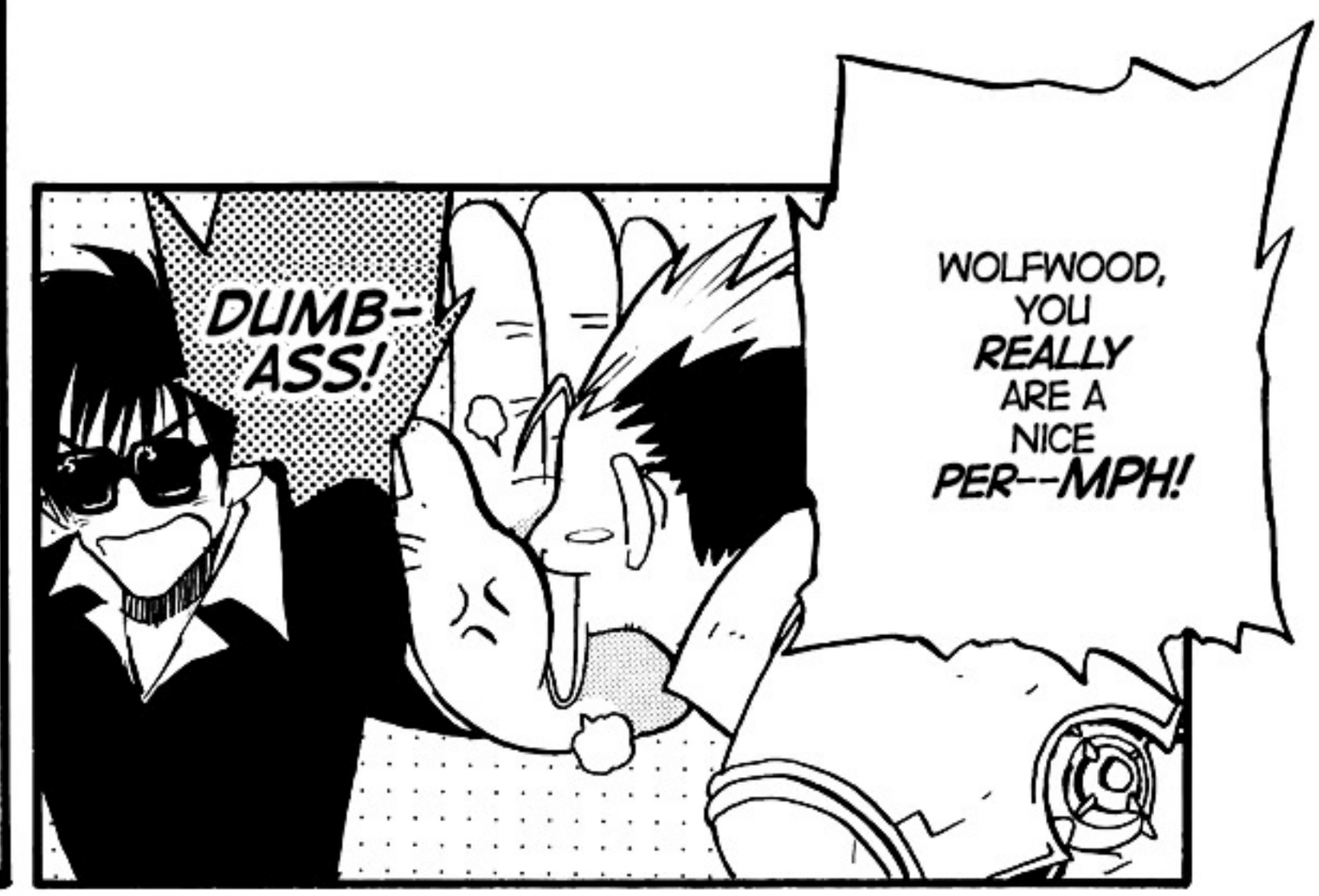
GAH!
...ASS.


THIS IS ALL YER FAULT, INSISTIN' ON BEIN' MISTER GOODIE-GOODIE!
CRAM IT!
YET ANOTHER FLASHY RESCUE, HUH?
YAWN!


YA DON'T NEED TO BE HERE NO MORE, RIGHT?
YOU'VE PROBABLY GOT FAMILY WAITIN' FOR YA.
HOP ON.

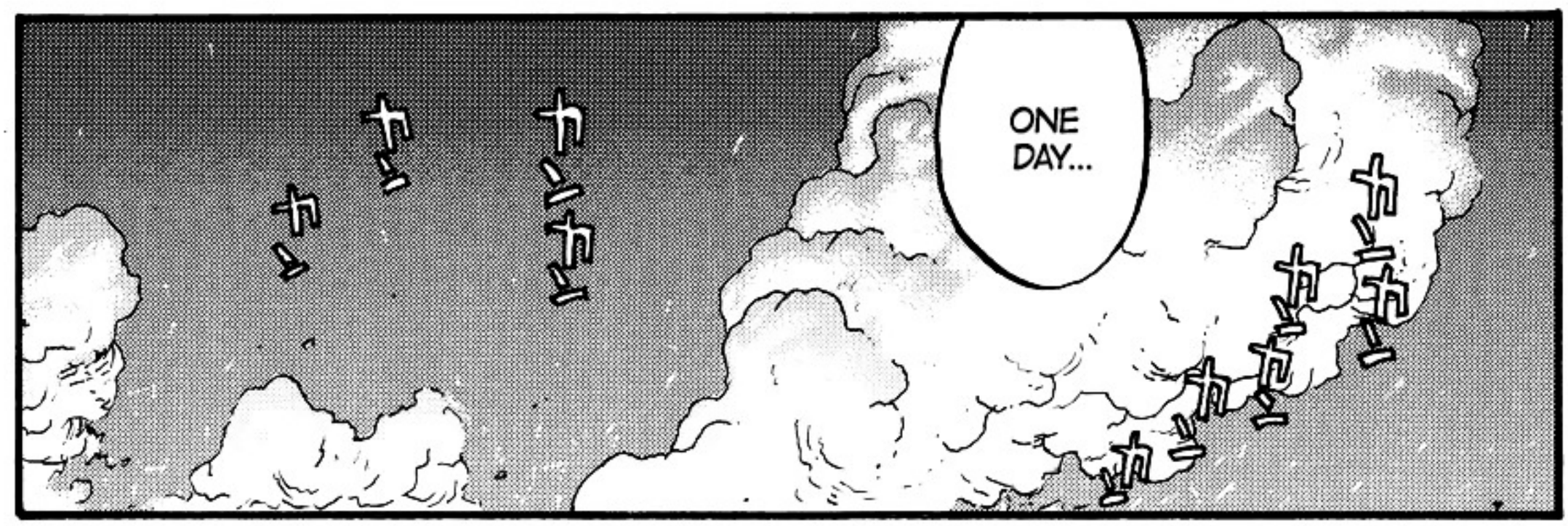
OH, YEAH...
HEY YOU, POPS!

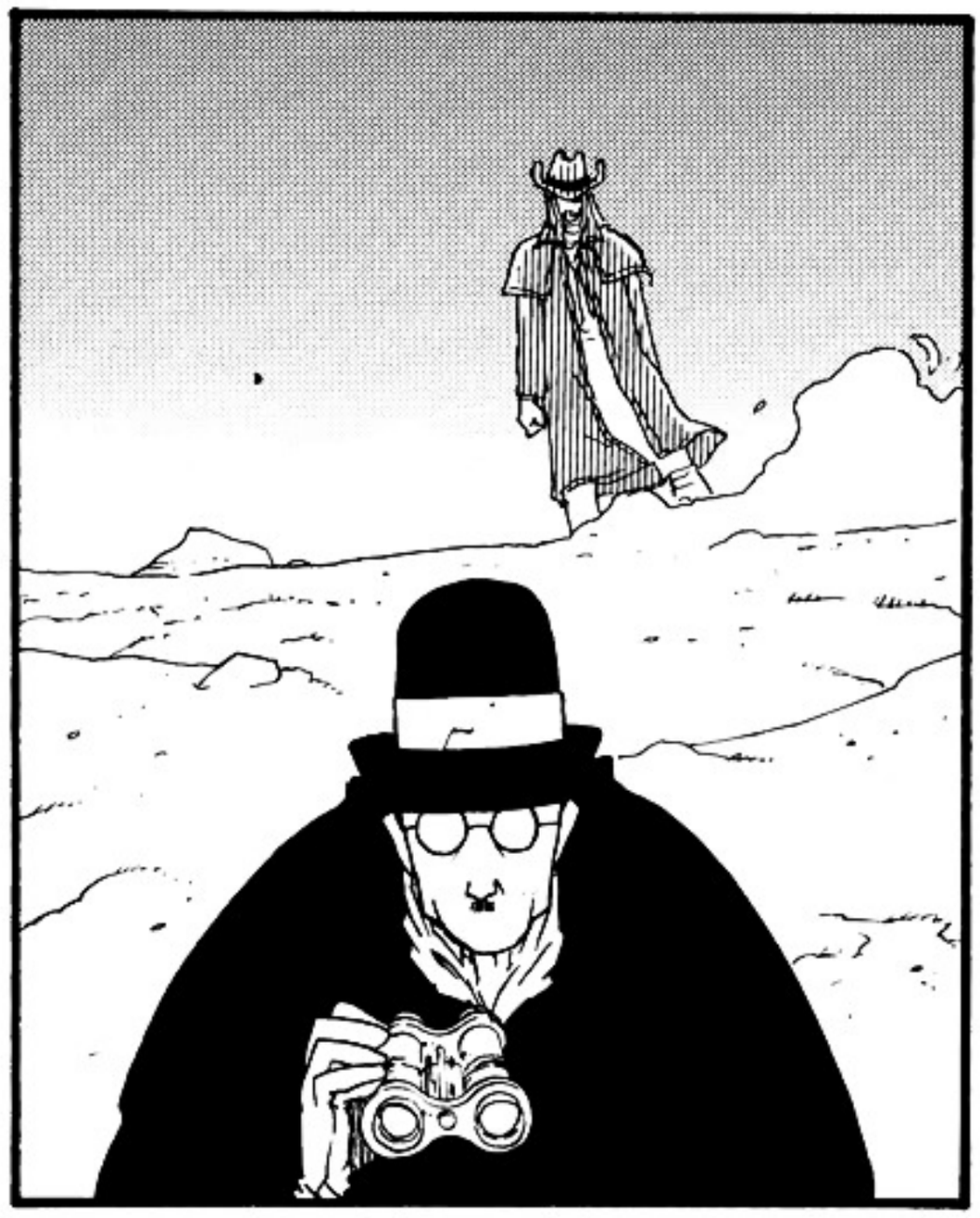
DON'T GET ME WRONG.
I STILL THINK YA NAIVELY LOOK AT THE WORLD THROUGH ROSE COLORED GLASSES.

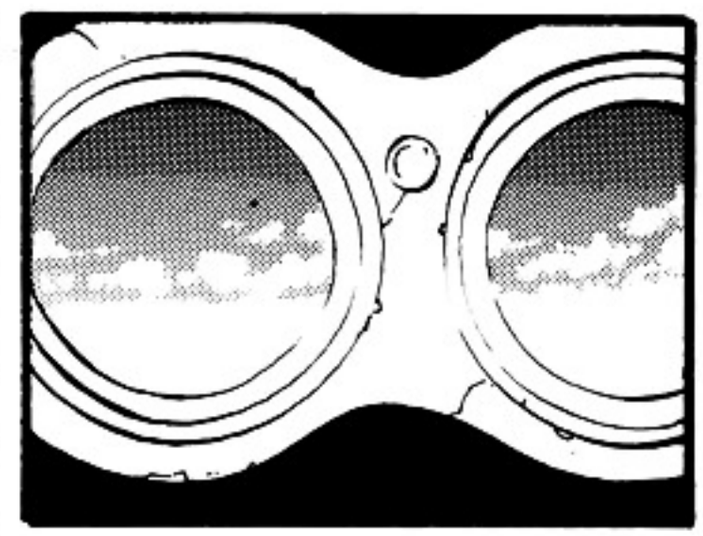

DUMB-ASS!
WOLFWOOD, YOU REALLY ARE A NICE PER--MPH!

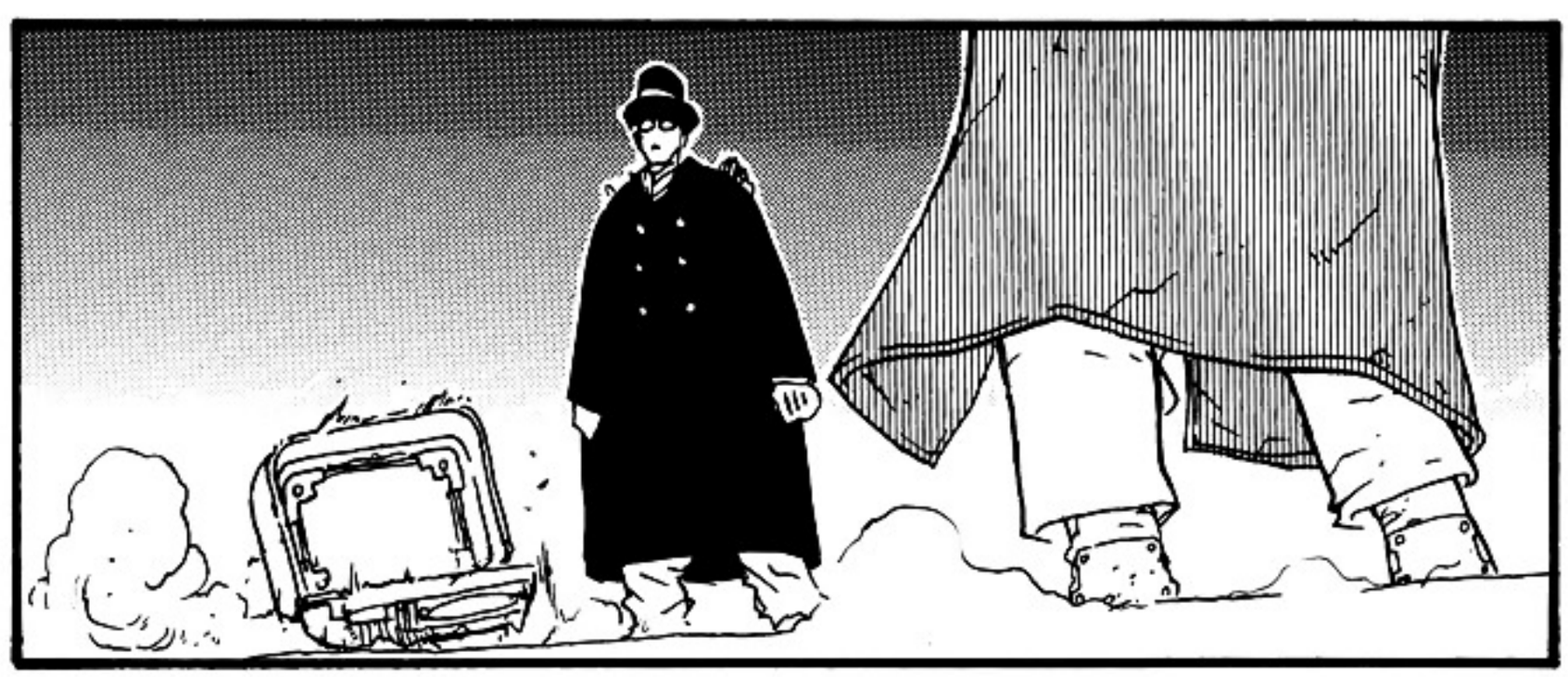
KEEP ON PUSHIN' YER LUCK LIKE YA DID TODAY, AND ONE OF THESE DAYS, IT WON'T WORK NO MORE.

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU'LL HAVE TO CHOOSE.


ONE DAY...
カーカーカー
カーカーカー
カーカーカー
カーカーカー







FWUMP

CHHK

CHHKK

CONCLUSION.

SIGNATURE MOVES. SKILLS CONFIRMED AS ANTICIPATED.

...
...

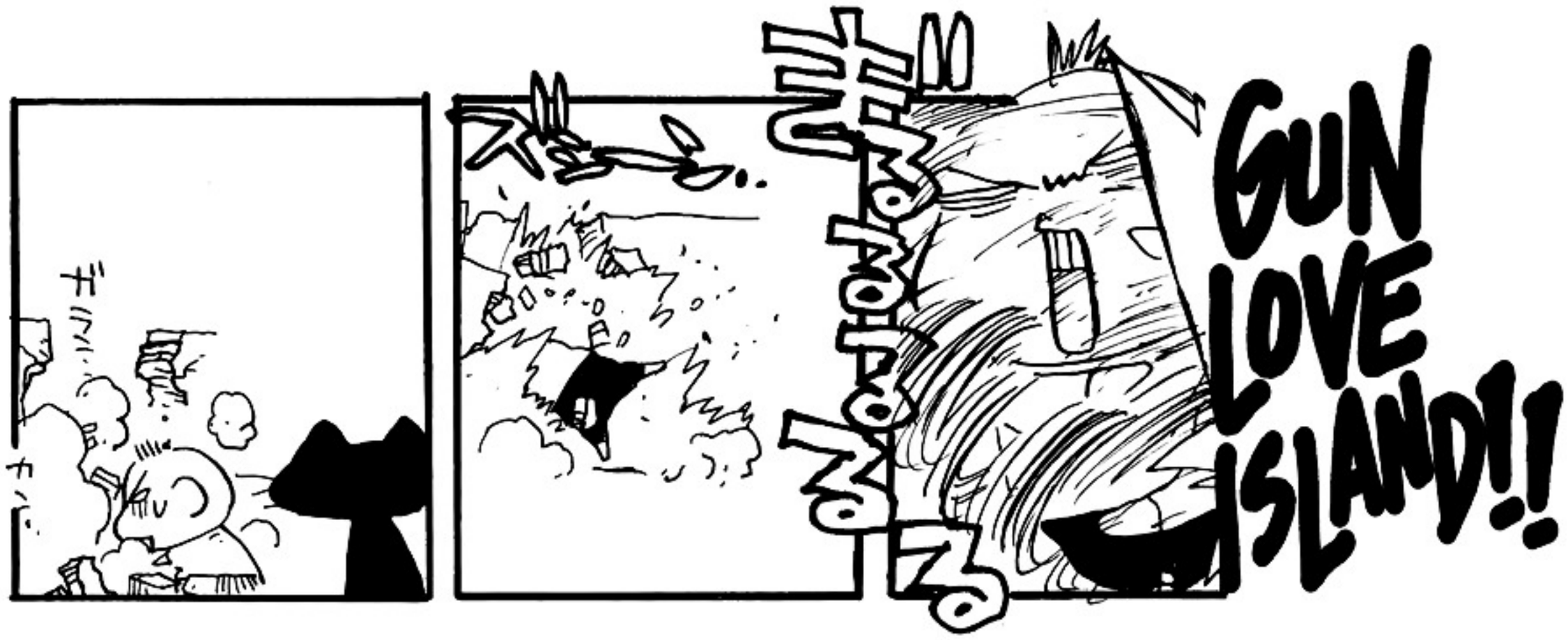
DETECTION.

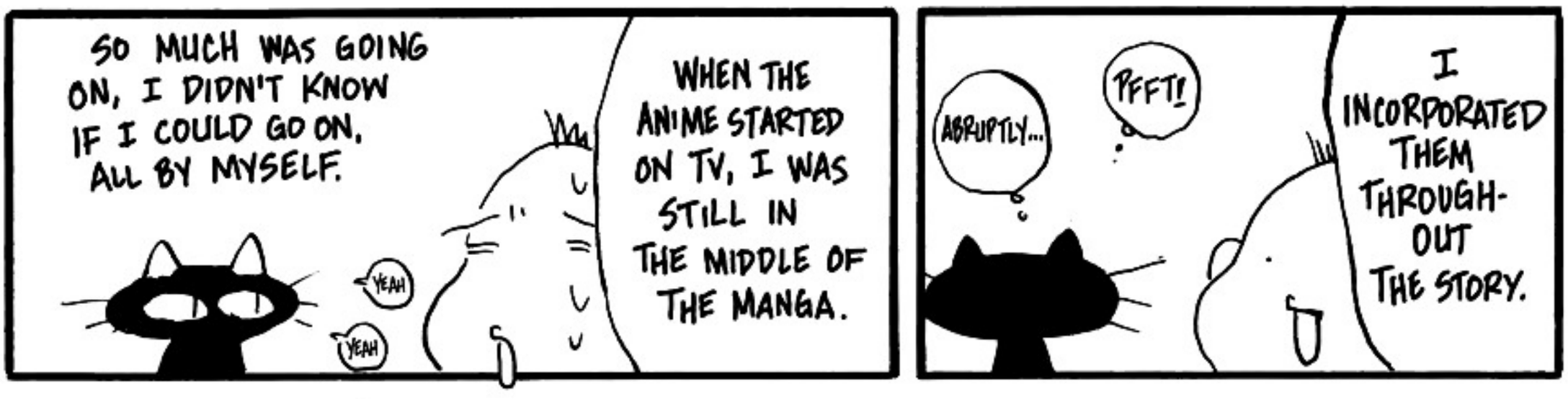
THERE IS NO DOUBT.
VASH THE STAMPEDE HAS RESURFACED...
...MASTER LEGATO.

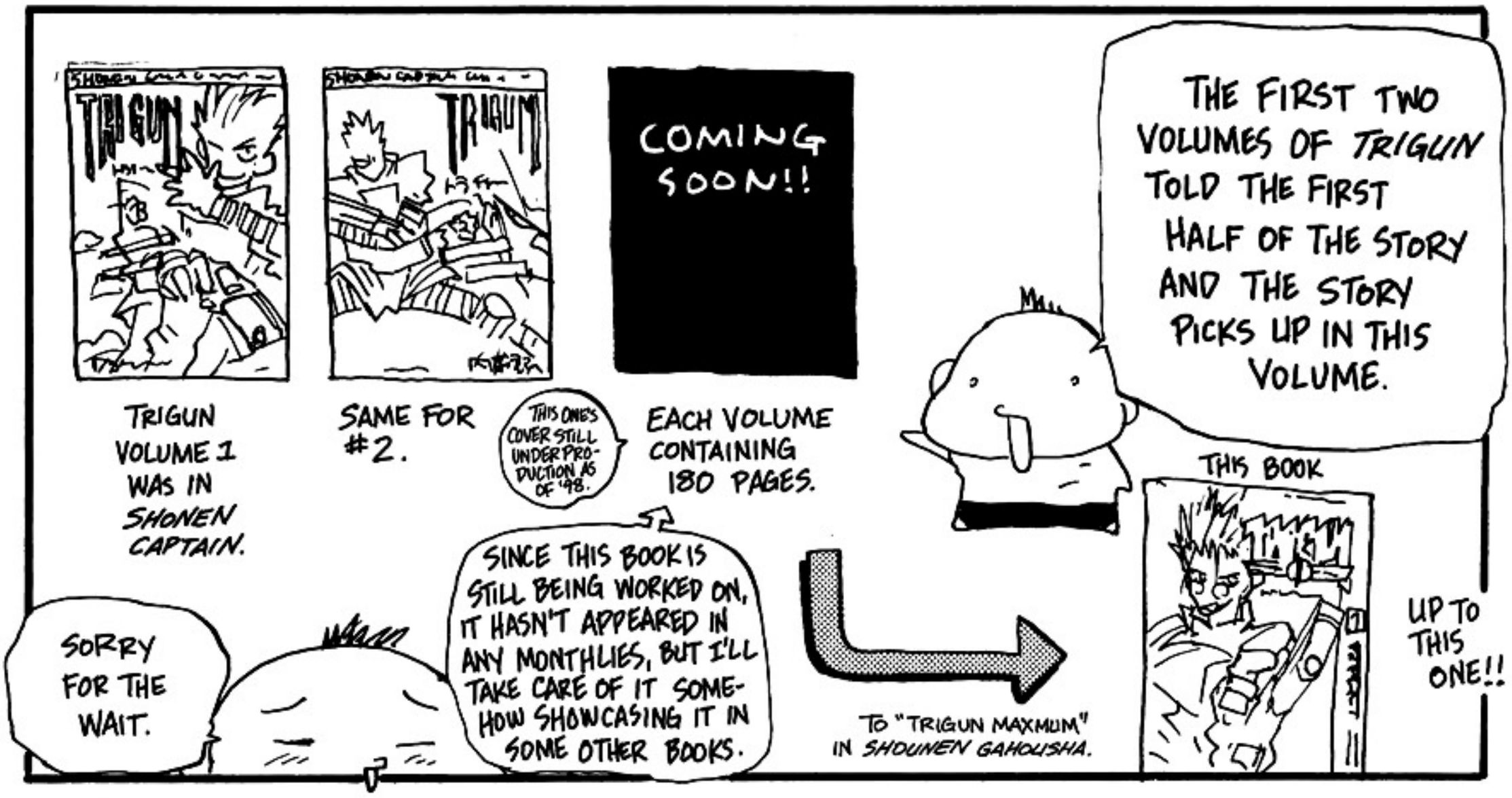
#06. SIN / END

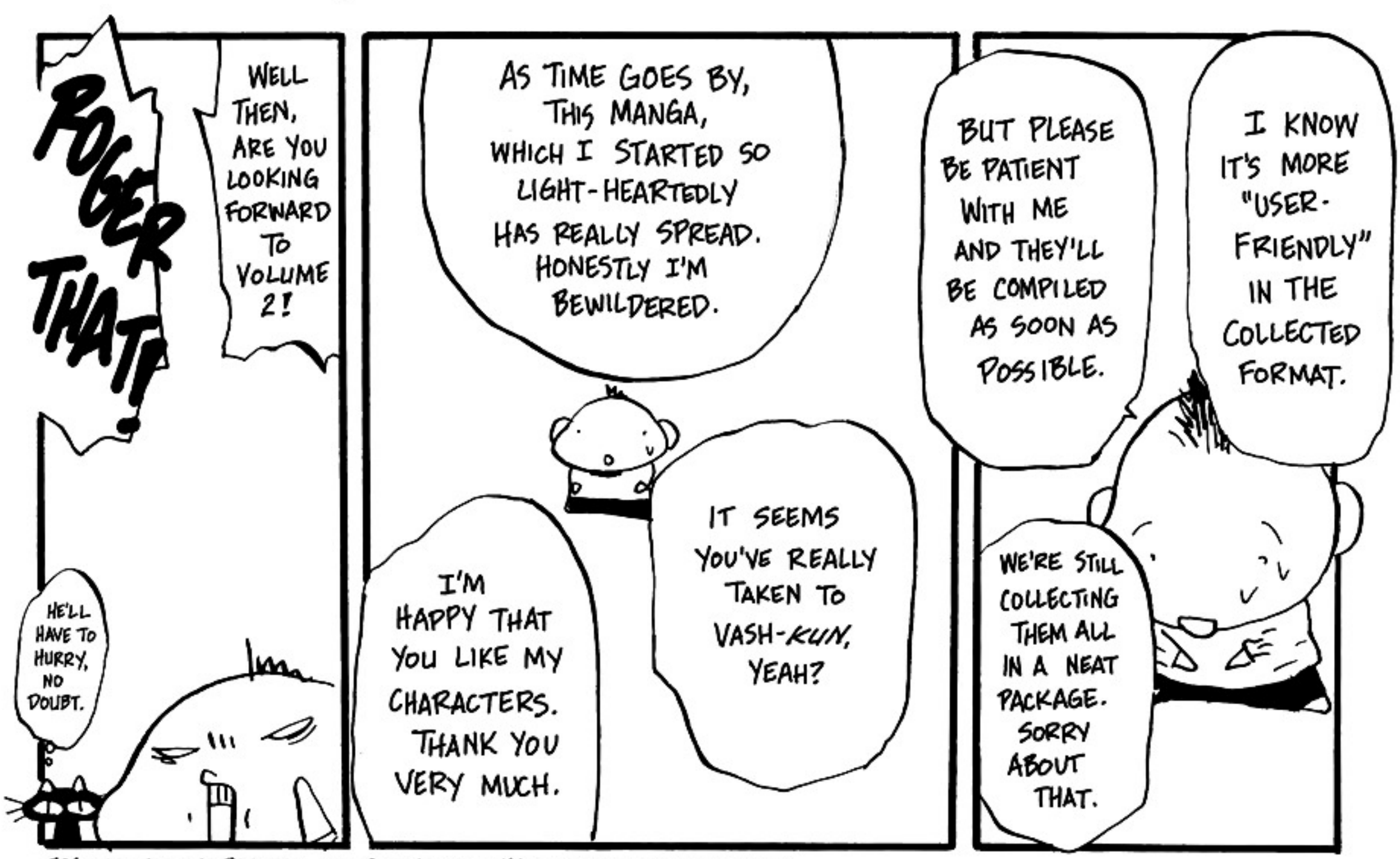
TURN TO THE NEXT

TRIGUN MAXIMUM
YASUHIRO NIGHTOW


ガシッ…
カシ…
ドドド







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DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION!!

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1 TRIGUN MAXIMUM

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VASH THE STAMPEDE RISES AGAIN!

It's been two years since the mysterious and super-nice gunman went into hiding, and the people of his desert planet are suffering. It takes a friend in peril to bring him out, and when he does, his enemies come chasing... as well as those crazy insurance girls, Millie and Meryl. And Wolfwood the wandering priest? Well, that's who found him in the first place! The gang's all back, and the trouble is coming in *Trigun Maximum*.

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